

be in a starving condition within a few weeks unless they received supplies of food far beyond any arrangements heretofore made or that seem likely to be made in the immediate future. Both Sir John Beale and Mr. Hoover expressed a desire that Dr. Robertson should join the Supreme Economic Council in some capacity. It is believed by the Canadian Ministers that he could be of service in smoothing down the differences which continually arise between representatives of Great Britain and of the United States, who frequently do not seem to understand each other. Mr. Hoover also urged that Canada should join the United States in providing relief to the extent of four shiploads per month for, say, three or four months. At a meeting of Canadian Ministers on Thursday evening at which Dr. Robertson gave the same report in more detail, he was informed that Canada is by no means in the same position as the United States in her capacity to afford benevolent relief and that this proposal would require very careful consideration before it could be entertained. It was agreed, however, that Dr. Robertson should accept a position in the Food Section of the Supreme Economic Council or in the Council itself. Sir Robert Borden secured an interview with Mr. Balfour on Thursday evening, at which he strongly represented the situation as it had been described by Mr. Hoover and Sir John Beale to Dr. Robertson. Mr. Balfour said that precisely the same information had reached him but that he was not familiar with the powers and duties of the various commissions. Accordingly Sir Robert Borden arranged to speak to Mr. Lloyd George by telephone on Saturday morning when he communicated to Mr. Lloyd George the situation above set forth; and Mr. Lloyd George undertook to give immediate attention thereto, saying that Lord Robert Cecil, the Chief British Delegate on the Supreme Economic Council would start for Paris immediately.

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Paris, March 1, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Saturday morning, 22nd February to Saturday evening, the first of March.

2. During the present week the Canadian Ministers have been actively engaged in the work of the various committees to which they have been appointed. The Greek Committee has been sitting nearly every day and this afternoon it sat until nearly seven. The work of this Committee involves the discussion and determination of certain difficult and rather delicate questions. It is not probable that there will be a unanimous agreement as the interests of Italy run counter to those of Greece. In some instances the Greek claims appeal with much force to the judgment of the majority of the Committee.

3. Lord Robert Cecil arrived in Paris on Monday evening [February 24] and at once took up with Mr. Hoover and the other members of the Supreme Economic Council the food situation in Central Europe, but it is not considered that the arrangements for dealing with that situation, which is not