

it would not be possible for us to accept if we were approached by the Polish Government. Please so inform the United Kingdom Government stating that we fully appreciate the importance of finding a suitable Protecting Power, if possible among the United Nations, but have concluded that Canadian Government could not undertake this most difficult task.

1529.

DEA/58-Bs

*Le secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures  
au ministre aux États-Unis*

*Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Minister in United States*

TELETYPE EX-1855

Ottawa, May 18, 1943

Following for Prime Minister and Robertson from Wrong, Begins: Polish Minister has just presented a note in which, after referring to his discussion with the Under-Secretary on May 16 and mentioning his informal suggestion that the Canadian Government might share jointly with Australia the representation of Polish interests in the U.S.S.R., he continues as follows:

Quote. I have now received instructions from my Government officially to approach the Government of Canada with an analogous request, which is being made after consultation with the United Kingdom Government.

It is earnestly hoped that the Government of Canada will see their way clear favourably to consider this request, the purpose of which is mainly of an humanitarian character. Unquote.

He has also left with me a personal letter to the Prime Minister which continues as follows, after referring to his formal note: Quote.

I have further been instructed by my Prime Minister, General Sikorski, to approach you personally in his name with an appeal for your favourable decision, as a tried and true friend of Poland, at the time of her greatest trial.

A sizeable portion of relief administered to the utterly destitute Poles in the U.S.S.R. came from Canadian welfare organizations, and the continuance of this humanitarian work under the supervision of the Canadian Legation would also for this reason be a desirable solution.

The sympathetic consideration by the Canadian Government of this earnest request to take charge of Polish interests in the U.S.S.R. jointly with the Government of Australia — until such time as the diplomatic relations between the Polish Government and the Government of the Soviet Union are resumed — would earn the profound gratitude of the entire Polish Nation. Unquote.

Mr. Podoski stated that he had not proposed to his Government that Canada might be asked to share this duty with Australia; the idea had occurred independently to the Polish Government in London. No further communication has been received from the United Kingdom Government but you will observe that Mr. Podoski states that the suggestion has been put forward after consultation with them.