

Mr. Amery has no desire to press his proposal and should you feel it still impossible for Canada to consider the suggestion he will quite understand, but the present circumstances have led him to hope that the subject might be re-opened. As you will remember he feels very strongly that the exchange of representatives between India and Canada will be very helpful in its relation to some of the problems of administration in India itself.

Mr. Amery also referred in his letter to the heroic joint defence of Hong Kong by Canadians and Indians.²³

Yours sincerely,

VINCENT MASSEY

49.

PCO

Extrait du procès-verbal du Comité de guerre du Cabinet
Extract from Minutes of Cabinet War Committee

SECRET

Ottawa, March 5, 1942

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SELF GOVERNMENT FOR INDIA

35. THE PRIME MINISTER mentioned the deterioration of the military situation in the Far East, with particular reference to the invasion of Burma and the imminence of the threat to India.

The Chinese Foreign Minister had informed him of the substance of General Chiang Kai-Shek's report that India's position was exceedingly weak and that the Indian population were not disposed to co-operate wholeheartedly with Britain in opposing Japanese aggression.

36. THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS reported receipt of telegrams from the U.K. government describing the text of a statement to be made shortly in London. It was intended to announce proposals to provide Dominion status to an Indian Union after the war; the right to leave the Empire would be specifically admitted.

(Telegrams 120 and 121 of March 4, 1942, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, to External Affairs.)²⁶

37. MR. KING read the text of the proposed statement and said that the government should express a favourable view of the proposals therein set out.

²³La note suivante était écrite sur ce document:

²³The following note was written on the document:

Robertson

Please draft wire to Massey²⁴ giving[?] him word to Amery (referring to earlier wire²⁵). K[ING]

²⁴Il semble que ce télégramme n'a pas été rédigé.

²⁴Apparently this telegram was not drafted.

²⁵Voir le document 824.

²⁵See Document 824.

²⁶Documents 822 et 823.

²⁶Documents 822 and 823.