

and took other measures which made it obvious that it could not longer be recognized as an independent government representing the French state. Accordingly, on November 9, 1942, a statement was made by me to the effect that, following the resistance by the French in North Africa to the British and United States forces landing there, "there no longer exists in France a government that has any effective independent existence—in other words . . . there no longer exists in France a legal or constitutional government in any sense representative of the French people, but only a German puppet government," and that, accordingly, diplomatic relations with the Vichy government were terminated by Canada.

On the same day, November 9, this information was communicated by me to the French minister personally. The formal note conveying the attitude of the Canadian government was sent on November 11.

The effect of the above measures was to withdraw any recognition that had been accorded to the Vichy government and to end all relations with it. This did not mean that France was to be in any way regarded as an enemy.

Immediately following the communication of the attitude of the Canadian government to the French minister, the position of the minister as representative of a French government in Canada ceased.

Following the severance of diplomatic relations, the normal course of action is to place the affairs of the government with whom relations have been broken in the hands of a protecting power. In this case, however, relations had been terminated and a declaration had been made that the Canadian government did not consider that any government any longer existed which could be considered to represent the French state. Consequently, there was no government which could designate a protecting power. Moreover, the possibility that at some later date a real French government might be recognized made it seem unwise to place the handling of affairs in the hands of a third power which might cause difficulty at the time that it was desired to hand over matters to whatever new government might arise.

The former French minister has vacated the legation. Inasmuch as no protecting power has taken over the control of French interests in this country, it has been necessary to make special provision for the custody and maintenance of the French legation property. Special provision has been made by which the property has been placed in the custody of the Capital Trust Corporation Limited, which has accepted custody in accordance with the terms of a letter dated January 22, from the

Secretary of State for External Affairs. The custody and administration by the trust company is subject to the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and must be handed over at any time to any agency which is designated by him to receive the property. Expenses in connection with the maintenance and administration are to be paid out of French funds held by the custodian.

In order to ensure that the legation property will be subject to constant care and attention, it has been arranged that Mr. Anfossy, formerly French vice-consul, will reside on the premises, along with his wife, to supervise the day to day maintenance which is to be carried out by a caretaker. Certain offices in the chancery part of the legation will continue to be used for the administration of war pension payments to persons formerly in receipt of pensions from the French government. With these exceptions, the French legation is now empty. These persons are subject to the arrangements made with the Capital Trust Company which may be altered at any time by order of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

There have been, hitherto, pensions to the amount of approximately \$4,000 a month payable by the French government to veterans of the last war and a few other French citizens in Canada who had been recognized as deserving of assistance by the French government. It would obviously cause very great hardship and injustice if these pensions ceased to be paid and, therefore, provision has been made for their payment out of French funds in the hands of the custodian. It has been decided that the administration of these payments will be by the Canadian pension commission, who will receive assistance in the technical aspects of the work from three subordinate members of the former French legation staff. By this means it has been ensured that Canadian residents who have hitherto received pensions payments from the French government will continue to receive them.

It will be recognized that the arrangements which have been made with respect to the various aspects of French interests in Canada are of an interim nature only. As soon as a government appears which is recognized by the Canadian government as being capable of independent action and as truly representing the French people and the French state, all aspects of French affairs in this country will be turned over to the control and administration of the representatives who may be established here by that government.

In taking this action it will be recognized that a position exists in which there is no