

61.

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions¹
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary¹

TELEGRAM 20

Ottawa, May 28, 1938

His Majesty's Government in Canada have come to the conclusion that it is desirable that the handling of matters at Brussels relating to Canada should be confided to an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary accredited to the Belgian Government.

Such a Minister would be accredited by His Majesty The King to His Majesty The King of the Belgians and he would be furnished with credentials which would enable him to take charge of all affairs relating to Canada. He would be the ordinary channel of communication with the Belgian Government on these matters. The arrangements proposed would not denote any departure from the principle of the diplomatic unity of the Empire, that is to say, the principle of consultative cooperation amongst all His Majesty's representatives as amongst His Majesty's Governments themselves, in matters of common concern. The methods of dealing with matters which may arise concerning more than one of His Majesty's Governments would therefore be settled by consultation between the representatives of His Majesty's Governments concerned.

The first Canadian Minister to Belgium, who would be designated within the next few months, would also be accredited as the first Canadian Minister to the Netherlands.

In proposing the establishment of a Canadian Legation, His Majesty's Government in Canada trust that it will promote the maintenance and development of cordial relations, not only between Belgium and Canada, but also between Belgium and the whole British Commonwealth of Nations.

I should be glad if His Majesty's representative at Brussels might be requested, at the instance of His Majesty's Government in Canada, to communicate with the Belgian Government in the sense of the above.

62.

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 22

Ottawa, May 28, 1938

CONFIDENTIAL. With reference to my telegrams Nos. 20 and 21² of today concerning proposed establishment of Canadian Legations at Brussels and The Hague, I may say for your information and the information of His

¹ Un message semblable fut expédié pour transmission au gouvernement des Pays-Bas.
 Similar message sent for transmission to the Netherlands government.

² Non reproduit/not printed.