

public protest against our attitude on this question and attract a very great deal of European sympathy from those nations who have no Asiatic question to deal with, and this will be all the more regrettable since they are our Allies. Further, it is possible that they may refuse to join the League of Nations—a result which will materially increase the insecurity of Australia, apart from its other disadvantages.¹

I need not say that if you would care to talk to me about it I am always at your service.

Yours very sincerely,
ROBERT CECIL

96. *Le Premier ministre par intérim au Premier ministre*

TELEGRAM P. 263

Ottawa, April 3, 1919

From White. Your X.193.² I agree with your views and will not so far as I am concerned concur in British Proposal. Canada should hold property of alien enemies as security for claims of Canadian creditors and our own claims for reparation and indemnity. This is view of Council and will not be changed.

¹ Voir Henry Borden, éd., *Robert Laird Borden: His Memoirs* (Toronto 1938), tome II, pages 926 et 927, où M. Borden jette plus de lumière sur le différend entre les Japonais et les Australiens.

On 31 March General Smuts lunched with me and discussed Japanese proposals which aimed at modifying the preamble to the Covenant. Smuts requested me to submit these proposals to Hughes and to urge him to accept them. This I did; and Hughes then seemed disposed to conditional acceptance of the proposals. There had been several previous conferences on the subject; and on 7 April I conferred with Lord Robert Cecil and Baron Makino; and that evening with Botha. On 9 April I expressed to Viscount Chinda and to Baron Makino the views entertained by the British Empire Delegation; and on the following day Sir R. Garron (representing Hughes, who was ill), Botha, and I again discussed the proposals.

The situation may be summarized as follows: The Japanese had strongly insisted that the preamble of the Covenant should be so modified as to recognize the equality of the nationals of all states which adhered to that Covenant. The proposals which they first submitted were not accepted; and public opinion in Japan was quite excited. An earnest effort was made to find an acceptable formula. The four formulae were as follows:

- (1) Japanese: By the endorsement of the principle of equality of all nationals of states members of the League.
- (2) Sir R. Borden: By the endorsement of the principle of equality between nations and just treatment of their nationals.
- (3) General Smuts: Delete 'By the prescription of open just and honourable relations between nations' and substitute: 'By the recognition of the principle of open equal and honourable relations between nations and just treatment of their nationals within the territories of other nations'.

(4) Lord R. Cecil: The members of the League agree that they will grant equal treatment to all foreign residents being nationals of other members of the League within their territories.

² Document n° 93.