

116.

W.L.M.K./Vol. 349

Le Président des États-Unis au Premier ministre
President of United States to Prime Minister

Washington, November 4, 1943

My dear Mackenzie,

Your letter of October 26 as to raising the Canadian Legation in Washington and the American Legation in Ottawa to the rank of Embassies has been duly received, and I am delighted to see that our views on this subject are wholly in accord. I agree with you that there will be universal public recognition of the appropriateness of this step.

I need hardly say to you that I shall be glad to welcome Leighton in his new capacity.

When we receive word through the regular channels that you are prepared to put this into effect, we shall take the necessary steps to raise our Mission in Ottawa correspondingly.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

117.

DEA/5930-40

Le Premier ministre au Gouverneur général
Prime Minister to Governor General

Ottawa, November 6, 1943

I have had under consideration the desirability of providing for a change in the rank of certain of the Canadian Ministers abroad to that of Ambassador, and to this end it is desired to make a submission to His Majesty the King seeking his approval for the policy of raising Canadian Ministers to the rank of Ambassador in such cases as the Secretary of State for External Affairs deems it expedient to recommend a change in rank. It is contemplated that the first post in which immediate change will be desirable is that in Washington.

The United States Government is now receiving ambassadors from all the Latin American countries, irrespective of their size and importance, and the status of the Canadian Legation in Washington, as one of the larger and more important diplomatic missions of the United Nations, is becoming increasingly anomalous.

If a change is made in Washington, it may become necessary to make a similar change in respect of the Soviet Union and China and of other countries in which Canada is represented. It is clear, moreover, that the difference between legations and embassies is tending to disappear, and this is reflected in a more and more general promotion of legations to the status of embassies.