

COLOURED PAPER  
PAPIER DE COULEUR

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FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA 687629  
TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS, LONDON

NO. 239

Ottawa, December 16th, 1944

CYPHER

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Following for the Prime Minister from the Prime  
Minister, Begins:

My telegrams Nos. 235 and 236 of December 10th. In the present difficult and painful situation in Greece we feel it essential that no Canadian forces should be despatched there except after the Canadian Government has had an opportunity to consider and approve. I do not suppose that there is any intention to send Canadian troops from Italy but the present instructions given to the Commander of the Canadian Corps would permit the employment of forces under his command anywhere in the Mediterranean theatre. We are, therefore, about to amend his instructions so as to make it clear that Canadian troops may not be sent outside Italy without the concurrence of the Canadian Government. This formal step seems necessary since I have given a public assurance that Canadian troops will not serve in Greece without the consent of the Canadian Government.

In this connection I may refer to our telegram No. 221 of November 14th to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in which we already made it clear that we were not willing to have Canadian formations stationed in Greece on occupation duty.

I appreciate the acute anxiety which this unhappy matter is causing you and your colleagues and I earnestly hope that a solution may soon be found.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS