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TELEGRAM

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From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

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LONDON,
the other widespread activities of the Royal Navy or
with any other of those grave problems which require
vigilance and merit description. As occasion serves,
as events suggest I shall seek other opportunities
of making statements to the House. But after all the
U-Boat attack upon British ocean-wide commerce was
one of the most heartshaking hazards of the last war.
It seemed during the early months of 1917 that it
might compass our total ruin. Only those who lived
through it at the summit know what it may^{be}/like. I was
not at that time in office, but my Rt. Honourable Friend
the Prime Minister of those days the Rt. Honourable
Member for Carnarvon Boroughs (Mr. Lloyd George) kept
me closely informed and I watched with a fear that I
never felt at any other moment in that struggle, the
deadly upward movement of the curve of sinkings over
the arrival of new construction. That was, in my
opinion, the gravest peril which we faced in all the
ups and downs of that war. We have no reason, upon
the information and experience which are now available,
to suppose that such a situation will recur. And if
this surmise, and it cannot be more than that, should
prove correct what does it mean? It means that one
primary danger is falling into its proper confines and
that amid all our anxieties we can feel a certain steady
measure of assurance that so far as the submarine is
concerned the British Empire and all its friends in