

general exchange of views than we would hope for. Mr. Heeney pointed out, however, that the President might be interested in suggesting that the meeting be held outside Washington, perhaps in some Army post. This would be much more informal and possibly conducive to a more relaxed atmosphere.

I think that the invitation could be refused; on the other hand, because of President Eisenhower's personal interest in the matter, it is rather difficult to suggest that you do so. If you accept I think we should emphasize that the number and intimacy of Canadian and United States common interests suggest that an opportunity be given for you to have some private conversations with the President.

If you decide to accept, a telegram to Mr. Heeney is attached for your approval instructing him to assure Mr. Dulles that you will be glad to accept the President's formal invitation as soon as it is convened.

Mr. Heeney notes that the invitation includes me and assumes that I shall accompany you. I would be delighted to do that, particularly in view of the fact that Mr. Dulles, if the present dates are satisfactory, would have just returned from his tour to the Far East.

L.B. PEARSON

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Ambassador in United States*

TELEGRAM X-179

Ottawa, January 31, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference: Your telegram No. 118 of January 21.

PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF PRIME MINISTER
AND PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

Would you please assure Mr. Dulles that the Prime Minister will be happy to accept the President's invitation to visit Washington in March, jointly with the President of Mexico.

2. We feel no enthusiasm for the tripartite aspect of the visit. However, if the President and Mr. Dulles have their minds set on this meeting, as is evident from your telegram and subsequent telephone conversation, we have no option but to accept gracefully and go through with it.

3. In conveying the Prime Minister's willingness to accept the invitation, you might, however, point out that there are some disadvantages from the Canadian point of view in the proposed tripartite meeting, and that the present formula should not be invoked as a precedent in future years. Because of the presence of the Mexicans, I fear that the visit will tend to be largely ceremonial in character without the opportunities for a frank exchange of views which we particularly value. Canadian-American relations are so numerous and so intimate that we feel that consultations should normally be bilateral in character, when they do not take place in an international body such as NATO or the United Nations.

4. In order to avoid or at least reduce the ceremonial character of a meeting of this sort if held in Washington, you might wish to explore further with Mr. Dulles the possibility that the meeting or part of it be held outside Washington if that suited the President. This would