

January 13th, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

W.L.M. C167451

I attach a copy of a personal and confidential letter which I have recently sent to Massey referring in general terms to some of our personnel problems which might result in changes in the staff of Canada House. The present staff there is adequate in size and works harmoniously together and none of them have been in London for an inordinate length of time. I feel, however, rather strongly that we should give some of the young men in the Department an opportunity to see service at posts closer to the war zone. In practice this would mean at Canada House that we should replace Ignatieff (who has been attending to prisoner of war questions and acting as Mr. Massey's private secretary) by a competent Third Secretary from the Department. As Ignatieff has never served in Ottawa it would be useful for him soon to have some experience of the Department.

The only change which might be made to meet the difficulties mentioned in the last paragraph of my letter would be to move Ritchie to another post where he could be appointed First Secretary. He has been doing very useful work and is certainly entitled to promotion just as much as Macdonnell who was made a First Secretary on transfer to Kuibyshev. A general attack on the promotion blockade would be much more satisfactory than the adoption of individual expedients.

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W.L.M.