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

Ottawa, September 1, 1939.

IMMEDIATE
EN CLAIR

Following from Prime Minister for Prime Minister.

Following a meeting of the Cabinet this morning a proclamation was issued summoning Parliament to meet on the earliest possible date September 7th. The following statement of government policy was issued to the press at one o'clock to-day: Begins.

In the event of the United Kingdom becoming engaged in war in the effort to resist aggression, the Government of Canada have unanimously decided, as soon as Parliament meets, to seek its authority for effective co-operation by Canada at the side of Britain. Meanwhile necessary measures will continue to be taken for the defence of Canada. Consultations with the United Kingdom will be continued. In the light of all the information at its disposal, the Government will recommend to Parliament the measures which it believes to be the most effective for co-operation and defence.

The Government has provided for the immediate issue of a proclamation under the War Measures Act in view of the existence of a state of apprehended war. The militia of Canada which a few days ago was called for voluntary service under Section 63 of Militia Act has, under Section 64 of the same Act been placed on active service. The naval services and the air force have also been placed on active service. Ends.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950, MG 26 J 4, Volume 348, pages C239920-C240745

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