



Ottawa, Ont. October 31st, 1916

Dear General Hughes,-

I beg to acknowledge your letter of last evening which reached me this morning. So far as I am aware you exercised the same control and direction over the forces in Great Britain during the first year as subsequently. You may recall that you visited Great Britain in the autumn of 1914 for that purpose.

With reference to the consultative sub-Militia Council which as stated in your letter you have formed, may I remind you that on the 31st of July 1916 I sent to you a cable as follows:

"When you have reached conclusion respecting your proposals for reorganization please cable them fully as they should be definitely embodied in Order-in-Council, and it would be desirable consider them before they are actually put in operation."

On the 7th of September, in consequence of a press despatch from London, I sent to you the following message by cable:

"Extraordinary press report appeared last evening giving details of arrangements which you are said to have made with respect to the control of our forces in Great Britain. Please note my cable thirty first July on this subject. In my judgment more effective and definite arrangements must be made for control of overseas expenditure and for direction of overseas forces. Such arrangements must be put in definite shape and embodied in an Order-in-Council. It is most undesirable that proposals contemplated should be announced in advance of consideration by Council."

On the 8th of September I received from you a reply as follows:

"Regarding cable press report positive orders were given from beginning that not one word was to be uttered concerning proposals until finally fixed in Canada. Have analyzed(?) and at War Office Canadian front and General Headquarters all advised me regarding proposals but all were supposed to be secret. Will enquiry fully. Hope definite suggestions will be ready tomorrow."

to which on the same day I sent the following reply:

"Cable received. Greatly surprised that composition of proposed Overseas Council is announced in press this morning. Hope you can return immediately. Kindly cable date."

and on the 11th September I received a further cable message from you as follows:



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"Purpose returning about end of month, my work here not completed before. Know nothing whatever about our own composition(?) of proposed Council and cannot understand your peculiar message. Report on proposed Council mailed you. Question of salary or rank never once raised by any officer. Absolutely understand nothing settled until approved by Order-in-Council. Leaving now for week inspection timber camps at various points. Absent about week."

It would appear that the reorganization alluded to in these various messages was actually put in operation before you left Great Britain although authority in Council has not been obtained therefor. This is by no means in accordance with the arrangements made in the correspondence above quoted.

I have read your letter with care and it does not seem to me that the proposals which you outline are practicable; thus I regret that I cannot concur in them. The control and direction of a Minister actually on the spot seem to me highly important for the reasons which were indicated in my letters of the 18th and 26th instant.

Yours faithfully,

Lieutenant General,

The Hon. Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B.

Minister of Militia,

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*R. L. Bader*