



Ottawa, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1916.

Dear General Hughes,

During your absence I have given very careful consideration to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, and I must express my deep regret that you saw fit to address to me, as head of the Government, a communication of that nature. As you are to return tomorrow, it is my duty to at once to announce to you my conclusion.

Under conditions which at times were very trying and which gave me great concern,

2.  
"I have done my utmost to support you in the  
Administration of your Department." This has been  
very difficult by reason of your strong tendency to  
assume powers which you do not possess and  
which can only be exercised by the Governor in  
Council. "My time and Energies, although urgently  
needed for much more important duties, have  
been very frequently employed in removing  
difficulties thus unnecessarily created." You  
seemed actuated by a desire and even an intention  
to administer your Department as if it were a  
distinct and separate Government in itself."

On many occasions, but without much result. I have contrived for against this course which has frequently led to well founded protest from your colleagues as well as detriment to the public interest.

I do not intend to dwell upon the substances, some of which are still under consideration, in which you have acted without authority or consultation in matters more or less important. Of these, the latest is the Establishment of a public Sub-council in Great Britain, including the appointment of its personnel.

I conveyed to you on the <sup>4.</sup> ~~12~~ <sup>10</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> July a clear  
intimation that upon so important a proposal,  
involving considerations of the gravest moment,  
the Cabinet must be consulted before action was  
taken. All the members of the Government have  
full and direct responsibility in respect of the very  
important matters which the proposed Council  
would advise upon and direct. The intimation  
which was given to you in my telegram of  
31<sup>st</sup> July should not have been necessary.  
As soon as it was received, you proceeded to  
disregard it. ¶



Some portions of your letter are expressive of the attitude which I have described and to which you evidently intend to adhere. Such an attitude is wholly inconsistent with and subversive of "the principle of joint responsibility upon which constitutional government is based."

But more than that, your letter is couched in such terms that I cannot overlook or excuse it. I take strong exception not only to statements which it contains but to its

General Character and Tone. You must surely  
 realize that I cannot retain in the Government  
 a Colleague who has addressed to me such a  
 Communication. I regret that you have thus  
 imposed upon me the disagreeable duty of  
 requesting your Resignation as Minister of  
 Militia and Defence.

Faithfully Yours,

Ch. Baden

Lieut. General,  
 Sir Sam Hughes K.C.B.  
 Ottawa.