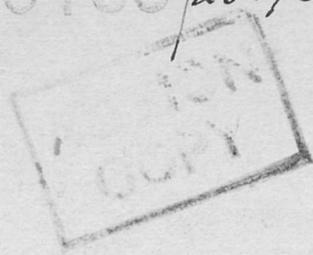


11/29185/28075



Ottawa, 25th May, 1923.

Sir:

I have the honour, by direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, with which you forward copy of a letter and a Petition enclosed therein received from the Netherlands' Government, in reference to troubles between the Canadian Government and certain Canadian Indian subjects of His Majesty, which you state it will be your duty to circulate to the Members of the Council. The Canadian Government has learned of this action of the Netherlands' Government with considerable surprise, and I am to express its confident hope that the Council will decide that the matter thus brought to its notice is one with which the League of Nations is not concerned. It finds it extremely difficult to understand how the Netherlands' Government, without knowledge, as it confesses, of the accuracy of the statements made in the Petition, and without enquiry so far as appears to ascertain the position of the Indians relative to Canadian jurisdiction, considers itself warranted in intervening in a matter which it cannot too strongly be insisted is solely within that jurisdiction. The idea suggested in the correspondence that the circumstances are such as to endanger world peace, and so bring the situation within the purview of the League of Nations, this Government utterly repudiates.

The claim that the Six Nations are an organized and self-governing people so as to form a political unit apart from Canada, is to anyone acquainted with the actual conditions, an absurd.....

The Secretary-General,  
League of Nations,  
Geneva,  
Switzerland.

