

Monsieur Buero.

This is an attempt to implicate the League, or at any rate the Secretariat, in the agitation which certain persons - I do not know how far they can claim to be representatives of the Indians concerned - have been keeping up against the the treatment of the Six Nations Indians by the Canadian Government. I think we ought to be very careful not to do anything which could enable Mr. Ockleshaw-Johnson or his associates to claim with any plausibility that the Secretariat had given ^{to} them, or ^{to} the claim of the Six Nations to be an independent State, any sort of recognition. Recognition as a State of a population and area previously for international purposes incorporated in another State can never be a function of the Secretariat, and where a movement for such a purpose starts, even where it is likely to be successful, Governments hesitate a long while before they give it recognition, and the Secretariat must, I think, obviously act only on instructions from the competent organs of the League. Apart from the Secretariat's own position, there is a risk that we might be helping a movement which was not really in the interests of the Indians themselves.

My proposals would be that the Acting Secretary-General or the Legal Adviser should send back the two copies of the Declaration of Independence with the attached letter.

December 22nd 1931.

M. L. Secretaire Général -
Je partage entièrement le point de vue exprimé dans la note précédente, autant pour les raisons juridiques que pour les considérations politiques. -
Peut-être M. le S. Général préférerait signer lui-même la lettre proposée -
H. McK. Wood
22-X11-31

[Signature]

23.12.31.