

The case confirms what a good many people have suspected — that Spanish diplomatic and consular facilities are being used in the interests of the Axis powers. [. . .] It is pretty clear [. . .] that the sender is an official of the Spanish Foreign Office. I am inclined to think the best thing to do is to inform the United Kingdom Government of the facts [. . .] and allow them to use this information to put the screws on Franco. In the present phase of the European political situation, the threat of exposure of Spanish collusion with the Axis may be a very useful lever in securing further concessions from Spain, or, if this course seems more desirable, could be used to discredit the present dictatorial regime completely.⁵²

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

1541.

DEA/123s

*Le haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne au
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*
*High Commissioner in Great Britain to
Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH A. 370

London, November 13, 1943

MOST SECRET

Sir,

With regard to your despatch No. 945 of September 20th[†], which was the subject of your telegram No. 3029 of the 12th November[†], concerning the activities of Fernando de Kobbe Chinchilla, the Spanish Consul in Vancouver, I passed on this information to Mr. Eden for any action which he might see fit to take in the matter.

2. I have now heard from Sir Alexander Cadogan to the effect that the United Kingdom Government have long been seeking quotable evidence that the Spanish Government were giving assistance to the Japanese in intelligence matters, a fact which they have for a long time suspected. They are therefore very glad to have this evidence of the guilt of the Spanish Consul at Vancouver, which provides a peg on which they propose to hang very strong representations to the Spanish Government that an end shall be put to all illegal assistance to our enemies by Spanish Consular and diplomatic officials abroad.

3. I am enclosing a copy of the proposed instructions to be sent to the British Ambassador at Madrid. As you will see it is suggested that the Spanish Government shall be asked for a categorical assurance that the Spanish bags will only be used for correspondence of direct interest to the Spanish Government, and that Señor Kobbe shall be withdrawn immediately.

4. In view of the fact that the Canadian Government are associated with these requests, the Foreign Office have asked whether the terms of these pro-

⁵² La note suivante était écrite sur ce mémorandum:

⁵² The following note was written on the memorandum:

I agree with suggested procedure. W. L. M[ACKENZIE] K[ING]