

ember 29 and of the substance of other telegrams exchanged between this Department and yourself, relative to the protection of Canadian interests in Japan.

I am informing the High Commissioner by telegram today that we are quite satisfied with the way in which the Argentine Foreign Office and the Argentine Embassy at Tokyo are serving our interests in Japan.

It is felt that any approach to the Argentine by the Canadian authorities with a view to having them relinquish the protection of our interests, would be contrary to our policy of developing friendly relations between the two countries. You should therefore continue to act in accordance with the policy outlined in this and in my telegram No. 55 of December 29.

105.

DEA/1954-E-40

Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM CIRCULAR D. 183

London, April 1, 1942

SECRET. My telegram of December 28th, Circular D. 778.†

Question of transfer of representation of our interests from Argentine to Swiss Government has been discussed once more at length with United States authorities to whom disadvantages of such action were explained.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington has now received letter from Welles strongly reiterating his desire that we should withdraw charge of our interests from Argentine Government on following grounds:

(1) In view of form of resolutions of Rio Conference regarding severance of relations between American Republics and Axis Powers, activities involved in representation of British interests by the Argentine were inconsistent with whole intention of resolutions.

(2) Representation of British interests in Japan merely serves as additional pretext for unwillingness of the Argentine Government to break off diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers.

(3) In reply to our fears that interned British subjects and prisoners of war would suffer by transfer of our interests to Switzerland of whom it was obvious Japanese took no notice, Welles considered it was highly unlikely Japan would be influenced in its treatment of British prisoners by the fact that one nation rather than another was in charge of our interests. Letter concluded by stating that it was their firm belief that we would be rendering real service to the cause of the United Nations by requesting non-American Governments to represent British interests in Japan.

Matter has been further considered in the light of United States views and we feel it will be necessary to ask the Swiss Government to take charge of United Kingdom interests in Japan and Manchuria; Switzerland at present have no representative at Manchuria but we have asked them to make best arrangements possible as long as they do not recognize Manchoukuo.