

3. We have no record of the number of Canadians in Shanghai but my estimate would place the figure at something like 75 or 100. Our senior official representative there is Mr. M. T. Stewart, Trade Commissioner. The Department of Trade and Commerce has had no recent word from him and they are prepared to telegraph to him at once if we so desire.

4. In my opinion it is highly desirable that we should obtain an immediate appreciation of the situation in Shanghai from Mr. Stewart. If his views corroborate those of Hallet Abend and the other press representatives, we can then get into touch with the United Kingdom and United States Governments and ascertain which steps they are proposing to take with a view to protecting their nationals in the case of trouble. Our course can be charted in the light of their plans. *To be useful this action must be taken without delay.*

5. It is, of course, possible, that no serious trouble will develop. But in view of the injuries Canadians have already suffered in China, in view of the obvious determination of Japan to take over the International Settlement while Britain and France are engaged elsewhere, in view of the number of Canadians involved, and in view of the immediate chaos that will result if the expected disturbance does occur and no steps have been taken in advance to protect our nationals, it would seem to be wise to obtain all the information possible and take every reasonable precaution to reduce the likelihood of danger to Canadian lives or property.*

990.

226-38

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

TELEGRAM 78

Ottawa, September 14, 1939

Repeated Japanese attacks on Canadian missions in the Province of Szechwan and elsewhere behind the Chinese lines, and increasing danger to Canadians from Japanese-instigated mobs in the areas under Japanese occupation, have made it necessary for us to consider the advisability of recommending withdrawal of all Canadian nationals from the interior of China. Before reaching a decision on this matter we would like to have your appreciation of the situation facing British subjects in that country and any indication that you may care to give us with regard to probable future lines of action by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

* Note telle que dans l'original:

Agreed. Sept. 14. O. D. S[kelton]

* Note as in original: