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*Le premier secrétaire, le ministère des Affaires extérieures,
au premier secrétaire, le haut commissariat en Grande-Bretagne*

*First Secretary, Department of External Affairs,
to First Secretary, High Commission in Great Britain*

SECRET. PERSONAL.

Ottawa, February 21, 1944

My dear Charles,

I quite agree with your observations on the Kobbe case — it has not been used, I think, nearly as well as it could have been. Hoare's telegram in which he intimated that he had given assurances to the Spaniards in the matter of publicity was an appeasement document if I ever saw one, and I was not surprised that you had drafted a letter to the Foreign Office to this effect even before our reply arrived. I am sometimes sorry that we did not break the thing wide open before Kobbe ever left Canada, as things have turned out, although at the time we felt sure that a sword of Damocles was a more political weapon from the long term view than a public sock in the eye.

Yours ever,

TOMMY [STONE]

1255.

DEA/123s

Mémorandum au Premier ministre

Memorandum to Prime Minister

SECRET

[Ottawa,] March 11, 1944

The Spanish Consul General, Mr. Schwartz, called on Wednesday on instructions from his Foreign Minister, Count Jordana, to convey his Government's appreciation of the courtesy and restraint with which the Kobbe case had been handled by the Canadian Government. Kobbe is now back in Spain, and the Spanish Government claims that it is making the most searching investigation of charges that Axis espionage agents have been using Spanish diplomatic and consular facilities.

Schwartz said that he had formed the impression, in his conversation with Kobbe during the three days that the latter was in Montreal, that the man was innocent.

Kobbe himself had maintained stoutly that he knew no reason why his recall should be requested, denied even having received secret messages from Japanese espionage agents, and said that the incriminating thousand dollars in United States funds which had been found in his apartment in Vancouver had been received through the mail without any covering letter which would indicate its source.

I told Schwartz that I had no doubt that the Spanish Government's investigation would establish Kobbe's guilt, but I could not myself give him any