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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au ministre aux États-Unis*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Minister in United States*

Ottawa, December 22, 1943

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

I have your letter of December 17th,[†] enclosing a further enquiry from the Peruvian Ambassador as to when we will be ready to exchange diplomatic missions with his country.

When the Prime Minister announced, in the debate on External Affairs Estimates in June³⁴, that the Government looked forward to the establishment of Legations with Mexico and Peru, he hoped that action would have been taken before this. There have been two reasons for our delay, neither of which could really be passed on to the Peruvian Ambassador. In the first place, we cannot appoint a Minister to Peru until we are ready to make a simultaneous appointment of a Minister to Mexico. The Prime Minister has, therefore, to find two suitable nominees, available at the same time. In the second place, the establishment of these new Latin American offices, plus the probable appointment of a High Commissioner to India, will require some reshuffling of our other senior representation abroad. Such shifts and transfers are not easily effected under present conditions.

I know that the Prime Minister hopes very much to make appointments to all these vacant posts before the House meets, i.e., within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, I do not think you can say anything more to the Peruvian Ambassador than that the Canadian Government shares his Government's desire to effect an exchange of missions at the earliest opportunity, and is particularly looking forward to the reception of a Peruvian Minister in Canada. You might also tell him that the Peruvian Consul General in Canada, Mr. Fernandez Davila, has not failed to keep us reminded of his Government's interest in this matter. Señor Davila, who has been a very pleasant and competent representative of Peru in Canada for these last three years, has an uneasy feeling that his Government may suspect that he has been less than zealous in urging us to complete the exchange of representation which had been agreed on, in principle, for some time. I hope that no such impression exists in the minds of the Peruvian Government, because Señor Davila has been, I think, an excellent representative of his country here, and can in no way be held responsible for any delays on our part.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. ROBERTSON

³⁴Voir Canada, Chambre des Communes, *Débats*, 1943, volume 5, pp.4797-4800.

³⁴See Canada, House of Commons, *Debates*, 1943, Volume 5, pp.4664-7.