

POOR PRINT  
Epreuve illisible

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CANADIAN LEGATION

61, Nieuwe Parklaan

THE HAGUE

January 23rd, 1940

No. 25.

Sir,

In continuation of Mr. Désy's despatch No. 24 of January 18th concerning the recent "alarm" over German intentions toward Belgium and Holland, I may add that while this alarm spent itself within a few days after Belgian and Dutch military precautions had been quickly effected, the belief has grown that the whole alarm was a framed-up affair by German authorities.

2. Ever since the Athenian Wars, faked military plans purporting to indicate a contemplated scheme of operations or attack, have been employed in every major war, and were used on various occasions during the last World War. Needless to say, the staging of these deceptions becomes more elaborate with each advance of military technique and intelligence services. It will be recalled that the present German Government have employed these arts of staging, with most careful elaboration, in the Reichstag fire, and probably in the Munich bomb plot; as well as in other concocted "incidents" carefully arranged to suggest hostile machinations or to mislead the "enemy".

3. It is now believed, though as yet confirmed, that the capture of German military documents from a landed German aeroplane in Belgium on January 11th was a similar feint. The action of the courier, a German officer, in disobeying his instructions to travel

The Right Honourable  
The Secretary of State  
for External Affairs,  
OTTAWA.