

instructions issued to Sir Samuel Hoare and enclosed to you under cover of the High Commissioner's despatch No. A. 408 of the 10th December.

I said that it appeared to me that the British Ambassador's *Note Verbale* was milder than had been contemplated in the instructions agreed upon by the United Kingdom and Canadian Governments. Mr. Williams said that he felt that Sir Samuel Hoare's *Note Verbale* was strongly phrased and that Mr. Eden had also spoken very bluntly to the Duke of Alba¹⁰⁵ about this case. He pointed out that in transmitting this material to the Foreign Office the Canadian authorities had asked that it should be brought to Mr. Eden's attention for whatever action he might see fit to take, and he felt that in the Foreign Office view the best possible use was, in fact, being made of the material in dealing with the Spaniards. I replied that of course the Canadian authorities were quite willing to leave the man on the spot, i.e., Sir Samuel Hoare, a free hand in the tactics he should follow in dealing with the Spanish Government regarding this case but we felt that he should have our views.

Mr. Williams then said, as reported in our telegram No. 347 of to-day's date,[†] that the Foreign Office would telegraph the Canadian Government's views to Sir Samuel Hoare and would also enquire further into the nature of the assurances which he had given to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to our abstention from publicity. Despite the Foreign Office assurances I personally remain somewhat dubious about Sir Samuel Hoare's handling of this case and cannot resist the impression that more effective use could have been made of it.

Yours sincerely,

C. S. A. RITCHIE

1253.

DEA/123s

*Le haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in Great Britain
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 422

London, February 18, 1944

MOST SECRET. Kobbe. Following is text of a telegram dated 14th February from Sir Samuel Hoare to the Foreign Office in reply to a telegram from the Foreign Office repeated to you as my telegram No. 364 of 11th February,[†] Begins:

Your telegram No. 165, paragraph 2. I have given the Spanish government no assurance beyond saying the Canadian Government are averse from giving any publicity to the matter whatsoever at present (see last sentence paragraph 2 of your telegram No. 81). Ends.

¹⁰⁵Ambassadeur d'Espagne en Grande-Bretagne.
Ambassador of Spain in Great Britain.