

In deciding to grant permission for the export of a certain amount of wheat to Japan, consideration might be given to selling it to Japan ex elevator in Prince Rupert rather than Vancouver. I understand there would be less likelihood of longshoring difficulties or other local demonstrations if the export was effected from Prince Rupert instead of Vancouver. In granting permission for the export of wheat to Japan a stipulation could be secured, for what it was worth, that the wheat was intended to be ground into flour for famine relief in Japanese controlled China.

In their representations against the application of our export control policy to Japan, the Japanese Government have made it very clear that they regard the long vacancy in our Legation in Tokyo as an indication that we are not trying very hard to smooth out diplomatic difficulties between our two countries. In delivering a note of protest to our Chargé d'Affaires in Tokyo last week, the Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs went so far as to suggest that, with the virtual ending of commercial relations between Canada and Japan, the principal reason for our exchanging diplomatic missions was itself disappearing. In the circumstances it might be easier to continue to refuse to export commodities to Japan if we took the initiative of exporting a new Minister to our Legation in Tokyo.

1271.

1698-B-40

Le chargé d'affaires au Japon au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Chargé d'Affaires in Japan to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM 65

Tokyo, April 23, 1941

Your telegram No. 53 of April 14th. British Embassy enquire whether we would hold Japanese Consular officials in Canada until release here of British Consular officers had been effected. See second sentence, second paragraph, page 3 of enclosure to my most secret despatch No. 63 of March 14th.

1272.

1698-B-40

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au chargé d'affaires au Japon
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Chargé d'Affaires in Japan

TELEGRAM 57

Ottawa, April 24, 1941

SECRET. Your telegram of April 23rd No. 65. You may inform British Embassy that we will cooperate as suggested, but in your discussions with the Japanese Foreign Office you should refer only to Canadian nationals until specific instructions from Ottawa are issued to relate release of Japanese officials in Canada to corresponding release of British officials in Japan.