

to express condolences to His Majesty's diplomatic representatives in Tokyo, a similar call should have been made on the Canadian Minister—and considered making representations to that effect to the Foreign Office. On reconsideration, however, I thought that this might be unwise, particularly as the situation developed I could not take exception to the attention shown and consideration given on all sides separately to this Mission. In addition I subsequently ascertained that the calls in question were made by the Imperial Messengers to request personal messages of sympathy to be communicated by the Ambassador direct to London, which step he immediately took by cable. It was also pointed out to one of our secretaries by a member of the British Embassy staff that such visits by Imperial Messenger were based on a precedent established when a previous British sovereign sent Royal Messengers, through the British Embassy, to the Japanese Court. As there existed no such precedent on the part of Canada the exchange of Imperial calls was not made with this Legation, but only at the Embassy. The Ambassador subsequently returned the Imperial visits by signing the register at each of the three respective Palaces. I would value your criticisms as to whether in your opinion and under the circumstances and conditions above described I should have requested that these special calls should also have been made on the Canadian Minister.

With one minor exception, the Japanese Foreign Office acted uniformly toward the British Embassy and this Legation. The Foreign Minister, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the heads of Foreign Office bureaux each calling or sending cards of condolence on the 21st. The exception was a personal (but not specially arranged) call, lasting but a moment or two, made by Mr. Koki Hirota, the Foreign Minister, on the British Ambassador. Mr. Hirota's Government that very day had dissolved the Diet at its opening session, and naturally he was extremely pressed for time. I understand that the purpose of his visit was to request that a message of condolence be sent through the Ambassador direct to London.

Although the Japanese Government Officials and many others appear to realize the position of the Canadian Minister as the representative in Japan of His Majesty in respect to Canada, and have taken appropriate action in making calls, etcetera, there still remains among many foreigners and Japanese in this country some uncertainty as to the constitutional position of Canada and of a Canadian Minister. I have persistently and on every possible occasion endeavoured to clarify this point both in relation to our contacts with the British Embassy—the Diplomatic Corps—the official body in Tokyo—and others in private life. There is no doubt but that great progress has been made but further patience and persistence will be required before the status of Canada and this Mission is completely understood on all sides. This you will recognize is a matter which can only be pressed in a diplomatic manner. I have insisted, however, on all occasions, when the opportunity arose, that the Canadian Minister be given the same degree of recognition as representative of the Crown as the British Ambassador is given.