

In the circumstances the Government have thought it advisable to request the French Minister to take the necessary steps to suspend the operation of French consulates and consular agencies, and I have today advised the French Minister accordingly.

Mr. STIRLING: Would the Prime Minister indicate whether these are French nationals who will have to be returned to France, and whether there are Canadian nationals there who will also have to be returned to Canada?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would have to check figures in order to give my hon. friend an exact answer.

(5) French Consulates and Consular Agencies in Canada
Statement by Prime Minister, May 21, 1942

On the orders of the day:
Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkeboro): In view of the statement made yesterday by the Prime Minister, I have had advised the French Minister to take the necessary steps to suspend the operation of French consulates and consular agencies in Canada. I should like to see the Prime Minister if he does not think that the reasons which he has given with regard to the continuation of the French consular operation in Canada are sufficient to justify the suspension of consular activities in Canada as a whole, as well as the suspension of consular activities in other countries with which we are connected.

Right Hon. J. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): In reply to my hon. friend, I would say that I do not think that the reasons which I have given justify the suspension of French consulates and consular agencies in Canada. The day before I gave reasons why it was inadvisable to suspend the operation of French consulates in Canada. I would like to see the Prime Minister if he does not think that the reasons which he has given with regard to the continuation of the French consular operation in Canada are sufficient to justify the suspension of consular activities in Canada as a whole, as well as the suspension of consular activities in other countries with which we are connected.

The acting Minister of the Interior, the hon. member for Yale (Mr. Stirling) asked yesterday whether as a result of the forthcoming suspension of French consulates and consular agencies in Canada, the consulates and consular agencies in other countries which were French nationals and who would be obliged to return to France, the consulates and consular agencies in other countries which would be closed and who would be obliged to return to Canada, I was asked to give my hon. friend the following reply to his question: I can now give the following reply to his question:

The various consulates and consular agencies, and some of the employees of these consulates who come to Canada and whose official status is closed, are automatically ended and such employees and employees who would naturally leave Canada. Consular officials who lived in Canada before their appointment to their posts in the consular agencies in other countries, but whose status as residents of Canada is not closed, are not affected. There are no Canadian consular agencies in other countries. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Consular Convention of 1923, which provides that consular officials shall be appointed by the Government of the country in which they are to exercise their functions.