

Madrid. If circumstances should arise making it desirable to make such an announcement it would be regrettable to find ourselves under any obligation to the Spanish Government not to do so. The police supervision over de Kobbe in Canada was in fact unobtrusive and so far as we know there is here no suspicion that he left the country for any reason other than a normal transfer from one post to another. We understand that United States police supervision will be equally discreet.

Insofar as the Spanish Consul General in Montreal is concerned, he was informed of the circumstances of the case and was told how the R.C.M.P. proposed to handle the matter during Kobbe's passage through Montreal. He gave our authorities his full co-operation and the routine laid down went through without incident. Kobbe is now out of Canadian jurisdiction.

1252.

DEA/123s

*Le premier secrétaire, le haut commissariat en Grande-Bretagne,  
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*First Secretary, High Commission in Great Britain,  
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

MOST SECRET

London, February 9, 1944

The High Commissioner has asked me to write to you with regard to the developments in the Kobbe case. On receipt of your telegram No. 218 of the 2nd February I wrote to Mr. Williams of the Foreign Office, who is dealing with the political aspect of this matter, . . . I enclose a copy of my letter to Williams<sup>†</sup> which, as you will see, closely follows the lines of your telegram under reference. Before your telegram was received, however, I had, on seeing Sir Samuel Hoare's telegram of the 29th January, spoken to the Foreign Office very much in the sense of your communication.

I saw Mr. Williams again on February 4th and at that interview I told him that the Canadian authorities could not but feel that if, as appeared to be the case, the British Ambassador in Madrid had given definite assurances to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that we would refrain from publicity in this case while the examination was pending, he had given away a valuable card in the game. Mr. Williams said that he was sure that Sir Samuel Hoare could not have meant in his telegram that he had given any binding assurances to the Spaniards that there would be no publicity, but rather that so long as the matter was being followed up speedily and whole-heartedly by the Spanish authorities we would agree to refrain from publicity.

I said that I felt personally that we had no need to bargain with the Spaniards in a matter in which we held such a strong hand. I added that the *Note Verbale* which Sir Samuel Hoare had presented to the Spanish Government, and of which a copy was sent to you under cover of my letter of the 31st January,<sup>†</sup> had omitted any reference to the moderation of the Canadian Government in not prosecuting de Kobbe in the Courts on a charge of espionage. This point, as you will recall, was covered in paragraph 3 of the