

In my telegram No. 4 I requested you to convey to Her Majesty the Queen the profound sympathy and sorrow of all Canadians in Japan. The British Ambassador the same day telegraphed his Government conveying to the Queen the profound sympathy of himself, his wife and staff and the whole British community in Japan.

News of His Majesty's death was received in Japan with a personal sense of loss. The former Anglo-Japanese Alliance formed a strong bond, both in peace and war, and has remained an extremely appreciated memory in Japan. As a naval cadet His Late Majesty himself had visited Japan many years ago and was personally received by the Emperor Meiji. In more recent years the cordial relationship of the two Courts was strengthened by visits to Japan of the present King while Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester and visits to England of members of the Japanese Imperial Family.

Early in the afternoon of the 21st, the Imperial Chamberlain informed T.I.H. the Emperor and Empress of the news received at the Imperial Household Department through the Foreign Office. Their Majesties despatched a personal message of condolence to Her Majesty Queen Mary, and shortly afterwards the Imperial Household Department announced that His Majesty the Emperor had ordered Court mourning from January 21st to February 10th. (This was suspended on two days, January 27th and January 30th, when Court ceremonies were held on the respective anniversaries of the death of the Emperor Ankan and the Emperor Komei).

Comment by high officials and others here all bespoke a sincere feeling of loss. Premier Okada observed that the love and admiration of the British King had been especially profound in view of the long ties of alliance and friendship between Japan and Great Britain. He recalled with high appreciation the efforts of His Majesty in seeing Britain through the dark days of the War and the subsequent years of serious import to the destiny of the British nation and Empire. Mr. Koki Hirota, the Foreign Minister, expressed a sense of personal loss: "Both the Government and people of Japan must feel the same way about the passing of the Sovereign of Japan's oldest ally. May His Majesty's soul repose in peace". Similar expressions were made by callers at the British Consulate-General in Yokohama. Fifty-eight ships of many nations which were in the harbour there all flew their flags at half-mast when the news was received. The Japanese press published sympathetic editorials on the King's death.

On the day of the 21st numerous calls of condolence were made on the British Embassy. In respect to the Canadian Legation, many high Japanese officials, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, British, Canadian and other private persons likewise made calls. A list of those who called or left cards of condolence at the Canadian Legation is attached.

In connection with the Imperial Household's visits, I learned that His Majesty the Emperor, Her Majesty the Empress, and Her Majesty the Empress Dowager sent respective Imperial Messengers to call on the British Ambassador on the afternoon of the 21st. I felt at first that if these were