

4. Communication with International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, press statement of February 26, 1942.

Word has been received from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, Switzerland, that it is possible for them to transmit some urgent messages (not exceeding twenty-five words in length) by telegram at a cost of approximately \$20 per message. This charge would cover also the cost of the reply from Tokyo to Geneva.

The Department of External Affairs has sent an urgent cable to Geneva asking the Committee whether this service is available for communications to Hong Kong and Manila and whether it may be used for messages to prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

The Department of External Affairs has been in constant communication with the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva and with the Argentine Embassy at Tokyo, in an effort to secure information about prisoners of war at Hong Kong but up to the present no means of communication with persons in Hong Kong has been established. The Argentine Embassy at Tokyo has been doing everything possible to establish communication with Hong Kong and it was through the Argentine Government that the figures of Canadians taken prisoner at Hong Kong, which were given out yesterday by the Minister of National Defence, Colonel Ralston, were received.

5. Establishment of a Canadian Branch of the British Food Mission in North America, press statement of February 27, 1942.

The following announcement was issued in London today by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food:

Negotiations by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food for the procurement of food supplies for the United Kingdom and other British countries from the North American continent have hitherto been conducted directly from the United Kingdom in the case of Canadian supplies, and through the agency of the British Food Mission to the U.S.A. in the case of U.S.A. supplies.

It has been found desirable to co-ordinate the administrative arrangements for the procurement of food supplies for both Canada and the U.S.A. The Minister of Food has accordingly approved the extension to Canada of the functions and duties of the British Food Mission to the United States of America and the reconstitution of the Mission as "The British Food Mission in North America."

Lord Woolton has appointed Mr. G.H.S. Pinsent, C.M.G., Assistant Secretary, H.M. Treasury, until recently Financial Adviser in the British Embassy, Washington, to be a Member of the British Food Mission in North America, and Mr. Pinsent will have charge of the Mission's Canadian business, under the general direction of the Hon. R.H. Brand, the Head of the Mission.

The Canadian Headquarters of the British Food Mission in North America have been established at Ottawa.