

by His Majesty the King acting on the advice of His Privy Council for Canada declaring that a state of war with the German Reich exists and has existed in Canada as from the tenth day of September, 1939.

In consequence of this notification I have closed the office of the German Consulate General at Ottawa and have instructed the German Consulates at Montreal and Winnipeg to act accordingly, also with regard to the consulates, subordinate to them, at Toronto and Vancouver.

Upon instructions from my Government, I have asked the Consul General of Switzerland at Montreal by letter of even date, copy¹ of which is enclosed, to take over the protection of Germans and the safeguarding of German interests in Canada as well as the archives of the German Consulate General and the other German Consular Offices in Canada. I trust that the Canadian Government will afford me and my staff—as well as the Consular Officers and their staffs at Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver with regard to these Consular Offices—facilities for handing over the affairs of this Consulate General and for this purpose make arrangements for myself and the staff to leave our residences for necessary visits to the Office.

Meanwhile I have the honour to lodge a protest against the confinement.

This confinement is being extended, as I learn just now, to every member of my household, including even my Canadian servant, Miss Helen Leeder. As I refuse to assume that it is the intention of the Canadian Government, to prevent me from procuring the necessaries of life, I have the honour to request that, pending a decision on my protest, at least one member of each household concerned be permitted free ingress and egress for the purpose of provisioning. I likewise request this facility for my furnace man, Mr. Priest, and for two packers, Messrs. Frigens (?), who have been and will be engaged in packing up my household.

This confinement to residences renders it impossible for me to provide the necessary protection for the Office and Archives. I take it that suitable steps in this respect will be taken by the Canadian Government.

I take note that instructions have been issued to ensure that police protection should be afforded to Consular Officers concerned at their residences. I take it that these instructions cover all members of the staffs and their families.

Further, I have the honour to ask the Canadian Government to grant to all German Consular officials and other members of the staff of the Consulates and their families special passports enabling them to leave Canada, and safe conduct from their respective residences in Canada to the American frontier, in conformity with the internationally established rules. I take it that the safe-conduct will equally apply to the personal effects of the above persons. As to the names and positions of the German Consular officers and other staff members on service in Canada, I wish to refer to my letter of May 9th, 1938,¹ together with supplements of later dates, and to the list attached herewith.

As to the residences, the household and other effects, as furniture etc., and such objects as have to be left behind, belonging to German Consular officials

¹ Non reproduites/not printed.