

Canada and Japan, approach Argentine Government to confirm that the Argentine would take over the protection of Canadian interests in Japanese Empire and Manchuria. He was also instructed to keep in touch with British Ambassador to ensure parallel action. Notification was sent by cable 10 a.m. December 8th.[†] Argentine Minister called this morning December 10th accepting on behalf of his Government protection of Canadian interests as requested.

Please continue to keep us informed. It would be most useful for us to know in advance the instructions which the United Kingdom authorities propose sending to their embassies at Washington and Buenos Aires in order that we may draft our own instructions accordingly or suggest modifications where our special interests may be affected.

98.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioner in Great Britain*

TELEGRAM 2000

Ottawa, December 12, 1941

IMPORTANT. Your telegram No. 2346 of December 11th.[†] Canadian Minister at Buenos Aires reports that he saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs yesterday and discussed the protection of Canadian interests in Japan. Both officials expressed willingness to do utmost, but explained that present Argentine Legation is under a Second Secretary acting as Chargé d'Affaires; while Consuls are in Kobe and Yokohama. Other Diplomatic and Consular officers, including Ambassador, are delayed in San Francisco seeking transportation to Tokyo post and a Consul delayed at Hong Kong.

In view of the above Argentine's ability to protect Canadian interests was, they admitted, limited and inadequate. Their agreement early in the current year to protect British and Canadian interests had not contemplated war involving the United States of America, ruptured transportation facilities, and deficient communications generally. Canadian Minister was informed that, under the circumstances, Argentine Government would not object to transfer of task of protection to Swiss authorities if this were considered desirable.

The Canadian Minister has informed the British Ambassador of above.

99.

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TELEGRAM 2002

Ottawa, December 13, 1941

Your telegram No. 2346 of December 11th.[†] Indochina. Please arrange for British Minister at Berne to associate Canadian Government with any request