

United Kingdom nor the Canadian Governments find the attitude of the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs adequate and conclusive.

Yours sincerely,

J. W. HOLMES

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

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

TOP SECRET

London, September 8, 1945

Dear Mr. Robertson,

With reference to my letter of the 22nd June to Mr. Read concerning the Kobbe case, I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Bevin, dated 20th August,[†] from Sir Victor Mallet, the United Kingdom Ambassador in Madrid, together with the English and Spanish texts of a *note verbale* from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' on this subject. Sir Victor Mallet reports that the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs finally decided that they have no case for proceeding against Señor Kobbe as they do not consider that any satisfactory proof has been given that the secret message or the microfilm ever reached him. He is to be punished only for his administrative offence of having delayed in notifying his superior officers of the receipt of money for an unknown destination. The view of the United Kingdom Ambassador is that the Minister's attitude can only be regarded as profoundly unsatisfactory. However, he considers that in the absence of any further conclusive evidence there would seem to be no alternative but to let the matter rest. In communicating this letter to me Mr. Garran of the Western Department of the Foreign Office stated that the Foreign Office fully shared the Ambassador's disgust at the attitude of the Spanish Ministry, but they also doubted whether any good would come of pursuing the case further. They would like to know whether the Department of External Affairs share this view.

As you are aware, the recent trend of United Kingdom policy towards Spain has been increasingly uncompromising. Every effort is apparently being made to make the Spanish authorities realise that it is not the intention of the United Kingdom Government to forget their attitude in the course of the war with Japan. Although the possibilities of securing satisfaction from the Spaniards seem pretty small, the question might be asked as to whether it is desirable at this particular time to drop our complaint and allow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs even a minor victory.

Yours sincerely,

J. W. HOLMES