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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*

DESPATCH 1223

Ottawa, November 23, 1943

MOST SECRET

Sir,

With regard to your despatch No. A. 370 of November 13th, 1943, concerning the activities of Fernando de Kobbe Chinchilla, I should be grateful if you would inform the Foreign Office that the Canadian Government appreciate reference to them of the proposed instructions to His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid.

The proposed instructions meet with our approval, but I should like to suggest the following minor changes:

(1) Paragraphs 3. Delete the second sentence and substitute the following: "You should inform them that His Majesty's Government in Canada have obtained indisputable evidence that the Spanish Consul at Vancouver is indulging in espionage on behalf of the Japanese Government, and you should hand to the Spanish Government the enclosed photostats. In view of this evidence . . . ."

This change is suggested because we consider that it would be preferable at this stage to exclude all references to censorship and to the manner in which the evidence was obtained. In view of the seriousness of the matter the Spanish Government could scarcely raise the question whether the evidence was obtained legitimately. Should they do so we would be glad if His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid could be instructed to say that the evidence was obtained by the Canadian authorities in the course of certain security measures taken for particular purposes arising out of the fact that Canada is a country at war. You will notice that I have added a paragraph 6 to the proposed instructions to Sir Samuel Hoare to this effect.

In view of the deletions of all mention of censorship from the representations which His Majesty's Ambassador will make to the Spanish Government, I should be grateful if no photostats of any of the envelopes are sent to Madrid. The photostats now in the possession of the Foreign Office include pictures of the envelopes contained in the large cover from the External Affairs Department, Madrid, (see item 2 of paragraph 4 of despatch No. 945)<sup>†</sup> but they do not include pictures of that large envelope itself nor pictures of the covering envelope from the Spanish Consul General in Montreal to the Consul in Vancouver (see item 1 of paragraph 4 of despatch No. 945). This last envelope, as a matter of fact, is now in our possession and if it ever became necessary so to do we could produce a photostat copy of it with or without, as circumstances might require, a censorship label attached. No label was attached, of course, when it