

Consider any action taken at once would not be resented in view of Argentine acquiescence in united action; whereas separate Canadian action taken at later date might require awkward explanations and be less readily understood.

109.

DEA/1954-E-40

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre en Argentine

Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister in Argentina

TELEGRAM 97

Ottawa, May 4, 1942

IMMEDIATE. Your telegram No. 105, May 2nd.[†]

Canadian Government have decided to take parallel action with the United Kingdom for the transfer of protection of Canadian interests in Japan to Switzerland.

The Canadian High Commissioner, London, is being asked to cable the text of the statement which is to be made by the Foreign Secretary to the House of Commons on May 5th and if possible a similar statement will be made simultaneously by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa. The Argentine Minister at Ottawa will be informed today that the Canadian Government are appreciative of the services rendered by the Argentine Government and by the Argentine Embassy at Tokyo in the protection of Canadian interests in Japan but that it is felt that it would be more convenient at this time for Canada to have its interests in all enemy countries handled by a single protecting power especially by the same protecting power as is being used by the other countries of the British Commonwealth.

Leave to your discretion exact terms of reply to enquiry from Argentine Foreign Office but suggest that you inform them that this Department will today inform the Argentine Minister at Ottawa of their desire to make the transfer. Please express strong appreciation of the services rendered by Foreign Office and by Argentine Embassy in Tokyo and in particular refer to the arrangements made by the Embassy to send liver extract by air to Hong Kong. If Argentine Minister agrees, statement will probably be made in the House of Commons, Ottawa, tomorrow simultaneously with that being made by the Foreign Secretary in London.⁵²

110.

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*Le ministre de Grande-Bretagne en Suisse au
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Minister of Great Britain in Switzerland
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 32

Berne, May 15, 1942

Swiss Government inform me that Japanese Government agreed on May 14th to representation by Swiss Government of Canadian interests in Japan.

NORTON

⁵²La déclaration du Canada fut faite le 7 mai. Voir Canada, Chambre des Communes, *Débats*, 1942, volume 3, pp.2283-4.

⁵²The Canadian statement was made on May 7. See Canada, House of Commons, *Debates*, 1942, Volume 3, pp.2212-3.