

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

L'ambassadeur britannique en Espagne au ministre d'État d'Espagne
British Ambassador in Spain to Spanish Minister of State

No. 343

Madrid, December 22, 1925

Your Excellency,

The Governments of Canada, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland and Southern Rhodesia have agreed to the extension to their territories, including any territories administered by them under Mandate, of the existing agreement between His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Spanish Government for the abolition of the visa requirement so as to apply to all Spanish subjects desiring to enter these territories, it being understood that this extension will not absolve Spanish subjects from complying with the immigration regulations in force therein.

In this connection it may in particular be mentioned that the Canadian Government have pointed out that, while Spanish subjects proceeding to Canada are exempt from the necessity of obtaining a visa in so far as they are non-immigrants, that is, visitors, tourists or travellers, the entry of Spanish immigrants is subject to the regulations contained in the Order-in-Council of January 31st, 1923, under which if "sailing directly or indirectly from the continent of Europe", their passports must carry the visa of a British Diplomatic or Consular Officer.

In making the above communication to Your Excellency, I am instructed to suggest that the extension of the existing agreement for the abolition of the visa requirement both in regard to the territories enumerated above and to all British Colonies not possessing responsible Government, except Malta and Gibraltar, and to British Protectorates, should come into force as from January 1st, 1926 provided that His Catholic Majesty's Government consent to a similar extension in respect of the entry of all British subjects of whatever origin into the Spanish Overseas possessions, with the exception of Ceuta, Mepilla and the Spanish Zone in Morocco. It is understood that the extension of the agreement does not absolve either British or Spanish subjects from complying with the immigration regulations in force in the country which they desire to enter.

In the event of the Spanish Government concurring in this course, the present Note and Your Excellency's reply will be regarded as placing on record the understanding arrived at in the matter.

I would add that the Governments of India and of the Commonwealth of Australia have expressed their inability in the present circumstances to exempt Spanish subjects from the requirement of a visa.

I avail etc.

HORACE RUMBOLD