

the Canadian censorship and the matter had been brought by us to the Minister's attention. The Minister had received an undertaking from Ricard that he would not circulate publications which had not been passed by the censor. I told him that the decision to ask for Mr. Ricard's recall was not related to any breach of this undertaking, but to the fact that he had been spreading defeatist propaganda in the Quebec area. He asked if I meant "anti-British propaganda". I said "No" — what we had in mind was clearly anti-Canadian propaganda, calculated to divide us from our allies and to play the enemy's game.⁹

Mr. Lageneste asked whether Ricard was an entirely exceptional case or whether there were any complaints about the Consuls in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal. I said we had nothing to say about the conduct of the Consuls in Vancouver and Winnipeg, which we thought had been correct. Speaking quite privately, I said we were not at all satisfied with the reports which we had received from reliable sources about the activities of Mr. Coursier, the Consul-General in Montreal. In the circumstances it would be desirable that the Minister should issue a new and strict warning to all the French consular and diplomatic officials remaining in Canada, instructing them to refrain scrupulously from any propagandist or political activities.

22.

DEA/3618-40

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 115

Ottawa, April 19, 1942

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Following from the Prime Minister for your Prime Minister, Begins: In conversations in Washington, from which I have just returned, the Acting Secretary of State of the United States in advising me of his Government's decision to recall Admiral Leahy from Vichy, expressed the hope that we would not take any immediate step to alter the status of French representation in Canada. I had told him that we took a serious view of the possible consequences of Laval's return to power and were prepared, if you were of the same opinion, to bring about the immediate withdrawal of Vichy diplomatic and consular representatives from Canada. He felt, however, that pending further clarification of the situation, it would be helpful if we could continue to receive the French Minister. He added that he would give us a week's notice of eventual United States decision to break off relations with Vichy so that we could synchronize our actions in this matter.

⁹Dans sa réponse du 8 mars à Hanson, le Premier ministre indiqua qu'il ne croyait pas que Ricard avait reçu le pamphlet en question par l'entremise de la légation de France et suggéra qu'il l'avait probablement apporté de France dans ses bagages.

⁹In his reply to Hanson on March 8, the Prime Minister expressed doubt that Ricard had received the offending pamphlet through the Legation of France and suggested that he had most likely brought it from France in his private luggage.