

Now, it occurs to me that this article must have come through the diplomatic mail via the French Ministry [Legation] in Ottawa — otherwise it would have been picked up by the censor — and that it has been deliberately sent down there to be used circumspectly to add fuel to the fire of the adherents of Vichy among the French-Canadians that are creating trouble afresh.

I understood from you that all mail addressed to the French Minister here in Ottawa was carefully censored and observed but this would indicate that, if it came through by mail at all in the regular way, it was not censored or, if it came through the diplomatic mails, that it was allowed to pass. This article is apparently being used for propaganda purposes and I think that is most deplorable.

I would ask you to have enquiries made in regard to this matter. I believe I can get evidence of the truth of the statements that the article was received by the Vichy Consul at Quebec and that copies are being circumspectly distributed, if such evidence is absolutely necessary. In any case, I think you should have this looked into and at once.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. HANSON

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*Mé morandum du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

SECRET

[Ottawa,] March 8, 1942

On Friday afternoon, after receiving from you Mr. Hanson's letter about Mr. Ricard, French Consul in Quebec, I asked Mr. Ristelhueber to come and see me. He was ill with grippe, so I asked Mr. Lageneste, First Secretary of the Legation, to come instead. I told Mr. Lageneste that in view of the accumulating evidence of Consul Ricard's propagandist activities in the Quebec district, the Government could not continue to accord him the provisional recognition as Consul which he had received since his arrival in Canada, and that it was desired that the necessary steps to effect his return to France would be taken as quickly as possible.

Mr. Lageneste enquired whether what I had said to him was to be taken as a warning or as the announcement of a decision already taken. I said that the decision had been taken. I told him that I knew that you had on a number of occasions advised his Minister very seriously about the mischief which would follow from any propagandist activities by Vichy diplomatic or consular representatives in Canada. He agreed that this was so, and said that Mr. Ristelhueber had made a point of warning all consuls, including Mr. Ricard, to refrain from political meddling and carrying on propaganda. He knew that Mr. Ricard had been circulating French publications in Quebec City which were forbidden by