

posed instructions would meet with the approval of the Canadian Government. The United Kingdom Government are anxious that this *démarche* should be made at Madrid in the very near future and they therefore would much appreciate an early expression of the views of the Canadian Government in this matter.

I have etc.

C. S. A. RITCHIE
for the High Commissioner

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

Projet de dépêche du secrétaire d'État aux Affaires étrangères de Grande-Bretagne à l'ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne en Espagne

Draft Despatch from Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain to Ambassador of Great Britain in Spain

MOST SECRET

Sir,

I transmit to Y.E. herewith a copy of a letter from the High Commissioner for Canada in the U.K.[†] covering a copy of a despatch from the Canadian Department of External Affairs[†] regarding the Spanish Consul at Vancouver who is apparently acting as a Japanese agent.

You will see that the Canadian Government have decided for the present to take no action against the Spanish Consul at Vancouver since they feel that it may be possible for H.M.G. in the U.K. to make better use of this material in our general relations with the Spanish Government. In the meantime, Señor de Kobbe is being closely watched without being interfered with. The evidence obtained by the Canadian Government implicates not only the Spanish Consul at Vancouver but also one of the Japanese agents in Spain and shows that Japanese espionage material has been passed through the Spanish bag presumably with the knowledge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The discovery of this evidence therefore provides an excellent opportunity for a general attack upon the assistance given to the Japanese Government by Spanish officials with or without the knowledge of the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs himself, and I shall be glad if you will now take this matter up with the Spanish Government.

3. If, therefore, Y.E. sees no objection, I request that you will address representations to the Spanish Government on the following lines. You should inform them that H.M.G. in Canada have obtained evidence from correspondence passing through the open mail which provides 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 photostat copies of the correspondence[†] seized by the Canadian censorship. In view of this evidence there can be no question of the Canadian Government agreeing to the continued stay of this person as Spanish Consul at Vancouver and they expect the Spanish Government to withdraw him forthwith and to conduct a most searching investigation into his case. The Spanish Government will realise that the Canadian Government in merely asking that