

## PARTI 18/PART 18

## VENEZUELA

1267.

W.L.M.K./Vol. 371

*L'ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne au Venezuela  
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador of Great Britain in Venezuela  
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

PERSONAL

Caracas, September 27, 1944

My dear Robertson,

With reference to your personal letter of August 29th,<sup>†</sup> I have now presented my credentials and have had a little time in which to settle down in my entirely new surroundings.

You know how keen I am, in the absence of a Canadian representative, to do everything possible to help Canadian interests, and even at the risk of your crediting me with an excess of zeal I think I should tell you privately that I am not entirely happy with the state of relations between this country and Canada. There is a great potential market here for British Commonwealth goods and services, which is being gradually collared by the Americans, who are making a big drive just now. The President of Venezuela was, I gather, more hurt by the delay and the eventual failure of his suggestion to visit Canada early this year, than the official despatches tend to show. No Venezuelan has raised this point, but this is what I gather from reliable informants. The President was done proud by the United States Government, and his hospitable reception by the Americans is beginning to produce good dividends in the way of post-war orders, and I am just a little apprehensive that Canada may awake to the situation too late. There is not even a Canadian Trade Commissioner resident here, and it is difficult for one man to cover this country from Colombia. Perhaps for various good reasons Canada is not particularly interested in trade with this country, and if so I hope you will ignore this letter.

Yours sincerely,

E. OGILVY FORBES

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
à l'ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne au Venezuela*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Ambassador of Great Britain in Venezuela*

PERSONAL

Ottawa, October 14, 1944

My dear Sir George:

Thank you for your personal note of September 27th commenting on relations between Canada and Venezuela, which you feel are not entirely