

[ENCLOSURE]

Memorandum by Secretary, Governor General

Ottawa, November 17, 1911

By desire of His Royal Highness I interviewed Mr. Foster, (the United States Consul General) and explained to him that His Royal Highness wished to show some courtesy to the foreign Consuls General resident in Ottawa but that he could not and would not act in any way against the terms of Lord Elgin's despatch¹ by giving them precedence or official recognition.

I insisted more than once on this point.

My subsequent letter and Mr. Foster's reply are attached. It will be observed that the term "Governor General" is not used in either letter, and that the Consuls General were received, not at, but before the Drawing Room.

It is therefore quite clear that the courtesy is being shown by the Duke of Connaught, not by the Governor General to Consuls General in their official capacity, for they do not attend the Drawing Room.

LOWTHER

14. Governor General to Colonial Secretary

SECRET DESPATCH

Sir,

Ottawa, November 20, 1911

In reference to your secret despatch of the 14th July last in which you refer to the possibility of my showing some special courtesy to foreign consuls, I now beg to enclose for your information a copy of a memorandum by my Military Secretary and of two letters² bearing on the question.

From these you will see that I have—without giving them any precedence—adopted a course which is satisfactory to the Consuls General and bridges over a tiresome situation.

These gentlemen are very anxious to lay hold of anything which may bring about their recognition as representatives of their state, but I do not consider that the fact of my seeing them privately before the Drawing Room gives them any such claim.

I have etc.

ARTHUR

¹ The writer was Secretary of State for the Colonies in the United Kingdom, 1905-1908.

² Not printed.