

supplementary information on the case. We had presented the evidence to the Spanish Government through the United Kingdom Ambassador in Madrid and it would only confuse procedure to use two channels.¹⁰⁶

1256.

DEA/123s

*Le premier secrétaire, le haut commissariat en Grande-Bretagne,
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*First Secretary, High Commission in Great Britain,
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TOP SECRET

London, December 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Robertson,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Roberts of the Foreign Office,[†] outlining recent developments — or rather, lack of developments — in the case against Kobbe.

It seems perfectly clear that the Spanish authorities have no intention of proceeding against Kobbe. As long ago as last March the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that they would set up a special court to try the case, and now in December they have still not reached the stage of drawing up a statement of charges against him.

I cannot resist the personal impression that the British Embassy in Madrid have been lacking in vigour in their handling of this case. Certainly no use seems to have been made of it to bring pressure to bear upon the Spanish Government in securing further concessions, as was suggested in your despatch No. 945 of September 20th, 1943.[†] Meanwhile, you will have seen despatch No. 121 of the 7th December from the Dominions Office, enclosing a note from the Spanish Embassy in London dated 25th October, 1944,[†] in which the Duke of Alba coolly informs Lord Cranborne that Don Fernando de Kobbe y Chinchilla has relinquished his post of Consul in Vancouver in order to be appointed to a post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid.

Yours sincerely,

C. S. A. RITCHIE

1257.

DEA/123s

*Le deuxième secrétaire, le haut commissariat en Grande-Bretagne,
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Second Secretary, High Commission in Great Britain,
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TOP SECRET

London, May 16, 1945

Dear Mr. Robertson,

¹⁰⁶Note marginale;/Marginal note:
OK. K[ing] 15-3-44.