

9911 A-40

18th May, 1942.

There will be two official visitors, one representing the Protecting Power and one representing the International Red Cross. Whether they will arrive together or separately is not yet known but we are trying to arrange one party. The Protecting Power may be represented by the present Spanish Consul at Vancouver or by the Spanish Consul for Vancouver who has been recently appointed but has not yet arrived, or by the Consul General, Mr. Schwartz, or possibly by some other representative of the Montreal Consulate. If Mr. Schwarz goes, he is apt to be accompanied by his Chancellor who acts as his secretary. Mr. Schwartz's command of English is imperfect and it would be advisable that the Japanese who talk with him should have as good a command of that language as possible. The Delegate in Canada of the International Red Cross Committee is Mr. Ernst Maag, of Montreal, who is fairly familiar by now with the work of visiting camps. He is a Swiss national and an active, vigorous, and very intelligent man.

It is expected that one officer of the Department of External Affairs will accompany the official visitors. It is hoped that Mr. Meade or some other representative of the British Columbia Security Commission will be present to offer guidance. Mr. McNamara has suggested that an engineer accompany the group to give actual geographical guidance, but whether this will be necessary if Mr. Meade comes would seem to be doubtful. Both of the official visitors are in the habit of conducting their business in the camps which they visit through spokesmen elected or appointed to represent all the occupants of the camp. This system works pretty well and in fact it is difficult to conceive a meeting of minds without some such organization. In internment camps the official spokesman is usually assisted by a person chosen chiefly for his command of English and may be attended, as required, by particular persons who have special knowledge of certain aspects of camp life.

The Spanish representative is apt to be interested in the following matters:

1. Camp Conditions. The layout of the grounds, the general type and construction of buildings, drainage, water supply and heating. Also in food and rations, both as to quantity and quality, and may be expected to inquire how far the special dietary needs of the Japanese are met. Also in clothing. He will inspect bath-houses, washrooms, and other sanitary equipment. He will visit the hospital and will be interested in the equipment therein.
2. He may inquire about quantity of mail the Japanese are allowed, its regularity of receipt, their right to send and receive telegrams, and rules respecting parcels.
3. He will wish to know if they are paid and how much, how far they are allowed to have money in their possession, and generally what restrictions of a financial sort exist.
4. He will wish to know what recreational facilities there are, both indoors and outdoors. He may inquire respecting religious activities and what provision has been made for devotional leaders.
5. He may visit the canteen and may inquire about how far it meets the particular needs of the Japanese.
6. He will be interested in the hours of work and in conditions of labour generally, both inside and outside the camp.
7. He will listen to any formal complaints which the Japanese leaders prefer and will receive such as seem to him proper.

He will write a report on these matters which will find its way to Spain and the substance of it will be conveyed to Japan. Outside the camps themselves the Consul General, if it is he who visits, will have an extensive curiosity concerning relief for the families of the Japanese and the custody of their property and, in fact, all arrangements for their economic welfare.

Mr. Maag's interest is somewhat more restricted. He will also be interested in the general structure, appearance, and sanitation of the camp, and will report on these matters to Geneva, but more especially he will inquire about:

1. Recreational facilities. Here he will ask for details respecting the needs of the men, since he may elect to do something about them.
2. Similarly, if there seems to be a need for avocational work he will inquire about these matters.
3. His chief interest is in the sick, in collective treatment of invalids and in the help of particular patients.
4. He may also be interested in taking personal messages from particular Japanese for their relations elsewhere.
5. Mr. Maag is also much interested in canteens, clothing, educational facilities, mail, and parcels.

Mr. Maag is allowed to carry a camera with him in internment camps, provided that he turn in the films to the Commandant. It will be found that he is very careful to observe any censorship requirements which are laid down.

April 23/42

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS	AVR/EN
April 23/42	
File No. 2966-A-40	
Sub. Chron. Filed	

106-B-40

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Mr. Schwartz, the Consul General of Spain representing Japanese interests called at this Department this morning. I had a brief conversation with him in the course of which the following matters were discussed.

1. Mr. Schwartz stated that the Japanese Minister was closing his house and that he had a number of books and periodicals which he wished to supply for the Japanese internees in Canada. Mr. Schwartz asked whether these could be collected from the Japanese Minister's residence or what arrangements might be made. I called Colonel Streight, Commissioner of Internment Operations, who said that he would be glad to undertake to make arrangements if we could let him know the amount which was to be collected and the time at which it should be called for. Mr. Schwartz promised to telephone this information to drop us a note after he had seen the Minister.
2. Mr. Schwartz said that he proposed to visit Petawawa on the 4th of May and asked if this would be convenient. I told him that so far as I know the date was entirely satisfactory but that I would confirm it later by letter. Mr. Schwartz proposed to leave from Ottawa by car and would be glad to have a member of this Department accompany him on his first trip to Petawawa. I promised to obtain information for him about the condition of the roads and probable driving time. It was arranged that a member of this Department would get in touch with Mr. Schwartz at the Chateau on Sunday evening, May 3rd.
3. Mr. Schwartz left with me two urgent letters addressed to this Department and requested that the necessary action be taken to deal with them as soon as possible, in particular, with regard to the letter addressed to the Camp Spokesman of the Japanese at Petawawa.
4. Mr. Schwartz referred to previous correspondence which I had with him about the possibility of providing a licensed assistant for his Hon. Vice Consul at Vancouver. He said that the Hon. Vice Consul had enquired whether Punji Hisaoka President of the Japanese-Canadian Association might act. He pointed out that as Hisaoka was a naturalized Canadian we might have some objections. I told him that my understanding had been that this Department would have preferred a Japanese subject as we had felt that a Canadian national of Japanese race might find himself in an embarrassing position if asked to assist a representative of the protecting power for Japanese interests. I told him I would consult the Under Secretary and let him know later whether was satisfactory to us. I stressed that of course the appointment is not an official appointment and that the responsibility of the nominee would be entirely to the Spanish Hon. Vice Consul. With regard to the possibility of securing a Canadian national who might be of service to the representative of the protecting power for Japanese interests in a similar capacity I told him that the name of Rev. W.R. McWilliams, 1716 West 29th Street, Vancouver, had been suggested. I said that I thought that the Canadian authorities would have no objection to Dr. McWilliams being asked to serve in this capacity but that I would inform him later. Should it be decided that Dr. McWilliams might be asked to undertake this, this Department would write to Dr. McWilliams informing him of our views in order that he might feel free to accept when an approach was made to him by the representative for Japanese interests.

Y. Mr. Schwartz
the following
I had a letter
whenever I refer
Mr. S.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF CANADA

File
MR
296-46
7-1

Dear

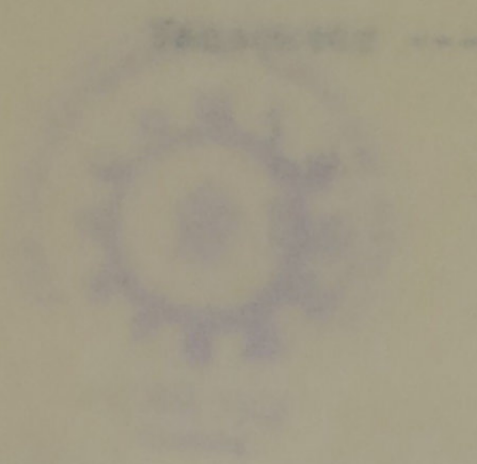
6. Mr. Schwartz presented to me a petition received from the Japanese at Vancouver concerning affects on Japanese families from all measures taken by the Canadian Government. He said that he felt that he should communicate this to us officially. I told him that the situation at Vancouver and elsewhere in British Columbia was of course in a state of flux and that we felt that if he could defer his communication for a week or 10 days he would find this Department then in a better position to make a satisfactory reply and to inform him of the measures taken to ameliorate the conditions affecting Japanese subjects. Mr Schwartz agreed that he would not send forward any official communication in this matter until after a lapse of 10 days. I told him that in the meantime I would look into the points raised in the petition copy of which he left with me.

I understand, however, from Dr. Rive that this morning the Spanish Consul General has had a telegram from the Honorary Vice Consul at Vancouver, making the suggestion that a certain named British subject of the Japanese race might be satisfactory. In this connection I think it might be desirable that you should communicate with Assistant Secretary Head, who is a member of the British Columbia Security Commission, and who has an extensive knowledge of conditions among the Japanese. I am assuming that the inquiry would be whether the person whose name has been put forward by the Spanish Consul General would be regarded as a suitable person to leave during such time as he himself may be left in the protected area. I was speaking on the telephone yesterday at Vancouver and I am informed that the evacuation is proceeding with accelerating speed and it may not be a matter of many weeks before the Japanese person suggested to carry my official to move.

A.V.R

In connection with the proposal of Mr. McMillan, the Secretary of State's opinion is that the case might be mentioned to the Spanish Consul General, with the suggestion that he should communicate with his Honorary Consul General at

H. A. Robertson, Esq.,
Under Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.



RCMP
Done, Apr. 23/42.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
File No.	2966-A-40	
Sub.	14	Chrch. 19
April 22nd, 1942.		Filed 1

Dear Dr. Coleman,

Recently the Consul General of Spain, Mr. Schwartz, in charge of Japanese interests called at this Department to discuss questions relating to the position of Japanese subjects in British Columbia. Mr. Schwartz pointed out as regards the province of British Columbia that he had great difficulty in fulfilling his obligations to his Government as the Protecting Power for Japanese interests. He reminded us that the Honorary Vice Consul at Vancouver was a British subject. It was hoped eventually that it would be possible to appoint a Career Consul of Spanish nationality but this was not possible on short notice. He enquired whether some reputable Japanese might be permitted to assist the Honorary Vice Consul in his work with Japanese subjects and referred to his understanding that both the Consul General of Switzerland and the Consul General of Sweden has been permitted to employ or secure the advice of nationals of the countries whose interests they were protecting.

Mr. Schwartz was referred to Mr. Rive of this Department and I attach copy of Mr. Rive's report on their conversation. You will observe that after a discussion of the difficulties facing the protecting power for Japanese interests in British Columbia, it was suggested that it might be better to name a couple of advisers in an unofficial capacity to the Spanish representative at Vancouver rather than to put a Japanese subject into an official position at the Spanish Consulate, although if this latter demand were pressed by Mr. Schwartz, I do not think we could refuse. However, the tentative proposal agreed to between Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Rive was that two persons acceptable to the Canadian Government and Spanish Consul General alike should be permitted to offer their assistance to the Spanish representative at Vancouver in work with Japanese subjects in that province. It would be understood that neither of the two advisers would have an official position either vis a vis the Canadian Government or the Spanish representative. They would act purely in a personal and individual capacity and would be responsible only to the Spanish representative at Vancouver.

Dr. E.H. Coleman,
Under Secretary of State of Canada,
O t t a w a .

Mr. Schwartz agreed tentatively that one of the advisers should be a Canadian of the white race. He would prefer that the other should be a Japanese subject of Japanese race if available, otherwise he might accept a Japanese of Canadian nationality. In principle, I think it is better that we should not put a Canadian national of Japanese race into the position where he is working with the protecting power for Japanese interests. This Department would therefore prefer that the second person should be a Japanese subject of Japanese race provided someone suitable can be found.

Following Mr. Schwartz's visit, the question was discussed with other officers of this Department who are acquainted with the Japanese situation in British Columbia. It is suggested that the Rev. W.R. McWilliams, 1716 West 29th Ave., Vancouver, a Canadian national who was for many years a missionary in Japan might be asked to make his advice and services available to the Spanish Consul General in connection with the work among Japanese subjects in British Columbia. If you agree with this proposal, I shall consult the Spanish Consul General and if he agrees arrange to approach Dr. McWilliams.

With regard to a Japanese subject to act in a similar capacity, it is suggested that the Assistant Commissioner Mead who is a member of the Security Commission and a man who knows a great deal about the Japanese community might be asked to suggest a suitable person. If you agree also with this suggestion, I shall be glad to approach the Assistant Commissioner or if you would do so, as you prefer, with a view to securing his advice. Any name or names he might suggest would of course be referred by us to the Consul General for Spain.

I should be grateful if you would give this matter your earliest consideration as it is clear from the conversations which we have had with Mr. Schwartz that it is desirable to assist him to establish better arrangements at Vancouver for the handling of his responsibility vis a vis the Japanese.

Yours sincerely,

for Alfred Kene

N.A. Robertson
Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

AVR/EN
April 17/42

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Consul General for Spain, Mr. Schwartz, representing protecting power for Japanese interests, called to see me yesterday about the welfare of Japanese families in British Columbia. Schwartz was concerned about the number of cases where Japanese wives had written to him asking for financial assistance. These were not only the wives of interned Japanese but also the families of Japanese who had been evacuated some of whom have had their incomes severely cut as a result of action taken by the Canadian Government.

I told Mr. Schwartz that all the cases which had been brought to our attention of Japanese families requiring relief were being dealt with either by Mr. Hereford, Dominion Unemployment Relief Commissioner or through the Custodian's Office when it was a question of making available funds in the hands of the Custodian.

Mr. Schwartz said that the situation in British Columbia presented a very difficult problem to him. He was not able to go there himself and it might be some time before he could have a Career Consul appointed at Vancouver. In the meantime, he had a very competent Honorary Vice Consul, a British subject who was doing the work there very well. Mr. Schwartz said he understood this Department had no objection to the Honorary Vice Consul at Vancouver and he was very grateful because he would be quite unable to get along without him. I assured Mr. Schwartz that the Department not only took no objection to the Spanish Vice Consul at Vancouver but we hoped that he would carry on with his present post.

We then discussed the problem which Mr. Schwartz understood was the most difficult, that of maintaining contact with the families of Japanese subjects in British Columbia and he enquired whether there was any Japanese officer outside the internment camps who was in a comparable position to that of a Spokesman of an Internment Camp. I told him that the Canadian authorities did not recognize any Japanese subject as competent to act on their behalf vis a vis the Canadian Government as that was the function of the representative of the protecting power. I said, however, that I thought that if he desired we could agree to a Japanese of good standing in the community being named by the Consul General to advise the Honorary Spanish Vice Consul at Vancouver. If the Consul General agreed to this, I said that I thought that the Canadian authorities would like to name a Canadian national, possibly someone connected with relief organization in British Columbia to meet with the Spanish Consul General and the representative of the local Japanese and give them the benefit of his advice.

The status of such a Committee, I said, would be entirely unofficial and informal but I thought that it might be of great use to the Consul General of Spain and it might make it possible to prevent a great number of complaints, based on this understanding, having to be handled officially at Ottawa.

Mr. Schwartz said that he was very grateful for the suggestion and he would endeavour to find a representative Japanese in Vancouver or in that vicinity who would be competent and acceptable to the Canadian Government. He agreed to submit this man's name for approval to the Department of External Affairs before taking any action. He also asked if as soon as possible, we would suggest a Canadian who could act in an advisory capacity on matters affecting Japanese in Vancouver especially in matters of relief, the understanding being that the person named would have no official functions but would give advice in an entirely individual capacity and on humanitarian grounds.

A.V.R.

.... C O P Y

AVR/BN
April 17/42

MEMORANDUM

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