

Dep

RECORD GROUP 25

VOLUME ~~244~~ 3006

FILE 3464-A5-40

al Affairs

Part.

From 11-6-43

To 16-8-43

Subject:

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT

& INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE RE JAPANESE

IN CANADA MADE AVAILABLE TO SWISS AUTHORITIES.

References to Related Files

[illegible]

TELEGRAM

From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

CYPHER

LONDON,

August 16, 1943

NO. 130

No. 130. Following is text of telegram August 14,
from His Majesty's Minister, Berne, for transmission to you,
Begins:

Your despatch No. 77, paragraph 4.

Swiss Government do not wish to approach Spanish
Government as you suggest as they fear that Spanish Government
might request reciprocity. This would be embarrassing as
Swiss Government regard reports of their representatives as
confidential. They point out that in any case communications
between Switzerland and Japan are so slow and copies of reports
sent by them to Swiss Minister in Tokyo would be uselessly
out of date by time they arrived (i.e., courier for Tokyo
left Switzerland last May and has not yet arrived.)

With reference to last paragraph of your despatch,
Swiss Government have no objection to M. George receiving Red
Cross reports, but suggest that International Red Cross should
be asked to communicate these themselves. Ends.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS.

Rec'd 8:59 a. m.



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
DÉLÉGATION AU CANADA

ERNEST L. MAAG
DELEGATE

MONTREAL, June 29, 1943
1040 SUN LIFE BUILDING

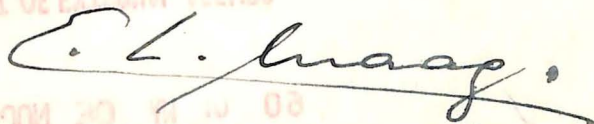
AGS
Department of External Affairs,
O t t a w a , Ont.

Sirs,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Despatch No.76, of June 11, having reference to a request on the part of the Swiss Minister to Tokio to have access to my reports about the condition of Japanese nationals interned in Canada.

I have relayed your request to my Principals in Geneva, recommending that my reports be placed at the disposal of the Swiss Government, provided, of course, that such a procedure would not create a precedent which would be against the policies of my Principals.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

3464-AN-40


DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
1040 SUN LIFE BLDG
MONTREAL, QUEBEC
Delegate in Canada of the
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

M/G

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
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Sub. Chron 3 Filed

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3464

31419

M/G

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

Delegats in Canada of the

1943 JUN 30 AM 10 09

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Yours obedient servant,

Sir,

I have the honour to re-

the holiness of my Principals.

comas, that such a procedure would not create a precedent which would be against that my reports be based at the discretion of the Swiss Government, provided of

I have rejected your request to my Principals in Geneva, recommending

Canada.

to have access to my reports about the condition of Japanese nationals interned in June 11, making reference to a request on the part of the Swiss Minister to Tokyo

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 10, of

Sir,

O f f i c e : Out.

Department of External Affairs,

DELEGATE

ERNEST L. MAAS

1040 SUN LIFE BUILDING

MONTREAL, June 28, 1943

DELEGATION AU CANADA

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE





CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA
MONTREAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	0
3464-AS-40	
Sub. 7	Chron. 13
Filed	

June 17, 1943.

No. 422
J.342

4595

file

Sir,

*Reference
attached*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. J104 of June 11th; and to state that, as you have written to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Berne, Switzerland, I have sent periodically to the Spanish Government full reports on inspection of Japanese camps and settlements in Canada.

I shall transmit a copy of your despatch to my Government at the earliest opportunity, informing them that I have no objection to the communication of my reports to Mr. Gorgé, Swiss Minister at Tokyo. As you might understand, the final decision on this matter does not rest with me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Pedro E. Schwartz
Consul General of Spain
in charge of Japanese interests

The Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

EXTENSION	0
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Sub.	Chron. 2
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File

MEMORANDUM TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY

4

I attach four despatches which ordinarily *would be* signed by Mr. Read, I suppose.

Their purpose is to devise a procedure whereby the Swiss Minister in Tokyo, who protects Canadians in Japanese hands, will know something of how Japanese in Canadian hands fare. The plan is that Spain and the I.R.C.C. will be asked to give Berne copies or resumé's of their reports on conditions in Canada.

I discussed this plan informally with Mr. Jaccard, who approves.

S.M.S.

VMS

Department of External Affairs.

File No.	3464-AS-40
Sub.	6
Chron.	2
Filed	

Ottawa, June 11, 1943.

AIR MAILNO. 570

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a despatch which I have written to the British Minister at Berne. This despatch is an attempt to see that the Swiss Minister at Tokyo is informed as to the condition of Japanese in Canada. Mr. Gorge has reported that this information would be useful to him and I believe it would be advantageous for Commonwealth interests in the Far East if the Swiss Minister there were fully informed. I have told the Consul General of Spain in Montreal, and the Delegate in Canada of the International Red Cross Committee of the steps that I have taken.

You may wish to tell the United Kingdom authorities what has been done.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

The High Commissioner for Canada
in the United Kingdom,
Canada House,
London, S.W.1,
ENGLAND.

Department of External Affairs.

File No.	3464-AS-16
Sub.	Chron. 2 Filed

Ottawa, June 11, 1943.

NO. J 104

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a despatch which I have sent to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Berne. The Swiss Minister in Tokyo whose duty it is to protect the interest of Canadians in Japanese hands, has reported that he is without information about the Japanese in Canada. I have suggested to His Britannic Majesty's Minister that the Swiss Government be requested to ask the Spanish Government that copies of your reports on the Japanese in Canada (or summaries of those reports) be provided for the information of the Swiss Minister at Tokyo. Mr. Gorge reports that the Japanese are much attached to the principle of reciprocity and the camp commandants are inclined to ask him about the internment camps in Canada.

I should be very grateful if you can do anything to assist in keeping Mr. Gorge informed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

The Consul General of Spain
in charge of Japanese interests,
Sun Life Building,
MONTREAL, Que.

File Copy
Mr. Scott
Department of External Affairs.

EXTERNAL / INTERNAL	0
File No.	3464-AS-40
Sub.	Chron 2 Filed

Ottawa, June 11, 1943.

AIR MAILNO. 77

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your despatch No. 102 of May 14th, enclosing a note from the Federal Political Department dated May 12th, 1943, concerning the visit of Mr. Gorge to Negishi Internment Camp.

I notice that the Japanese officials in the camp enquired as to the treatment given the Japanese internees in the British Empire. Mr. Gorge said in his report that he had received no recent news on this subject and that he would like to have such information, adding that the Japanese were much attached to the principle of reciprocity.

As I think you know, Japanese interests in Canada are protected by the Spanish Government. The Spanish Consul General visits the Japanese, or sends his consuls to visit them frequently. He sends reports to Madrid and it is presumed that these reports are sent to Tokyo. This regular channel provides no way in which the Swiss Minister may inform himself about conditions in Canada. Nevertheless, since most of the Japanese in the British Empire are in Canada, it is important that Mr. Gorge should know about them.

May I request that you ask the Federal Political Department to approach the Spanish Government with a view to having copies of the reports of the Spanish Consul General, or summaries of these statements, furnished to the Swiss Government and communications ed to their Minister in Tokyo.

The Delegate in Canada of the International Committee of the Red Cross also visits the Japanese regularly. His reports, of course, go to Geneva. Would it be possible for the Swiss Government to arrange that copies of these reports be secured and sent to Monsieur Gorge?

I should be grateful if you would let me know the results of these requests.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. Robertson
Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister,
Berne, SWITZERLAND.

Department of External Affairs.

EXT. No.	
File No.	3464-AS 1/6
Sub.	6 Chron 2 Filed

Ottawa, June 11, 1943.

NO. 76

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the despatch which I have sent to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Berne. The Swiss Minister in Tokyo has reported that camp commandants whom he visits are curious about conditions in Japanese internment camps in the British Empire. Mr. Gorge himself does not have this information. I have suggested in this despatch that the Swiss Government be asked to approach the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva with a view to securing copies of your reports for transmission to the Swiss Minister in Tokyo.

I should be grateful for anything that you can do to further this request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

The Delegate in Canada of the
International Red Cross Committee,
1040 Sun Life Building,
MONTREAL, Que.

--copy--

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
File No	3464-AS-46	
Sub.	6	Chron. 6 Filed

*original on
2998-D.40*

No. 102

(VIII/262/43

HIS Majesty's Minister at Berne presents his compliments to the Rt. Hon. the Minister of External Affairs, OTTAWA, and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation,
Berne.

14 May, 1943.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Berne despatch 89 of 29.4.43.

Description of enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject
From: Federal Political Department	Canadian Interests:
Date: 12 May, 1943	Visit to Mr Gorge to Negishi internment camp.

Copy sent to Foreign Office.

Comme suite à sa note B.24.GBr.(15)51-Negishi-GO/Co du 27 Avril 1943, le Département Politique fédéral, Division des Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur de faire savoir à la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique que M. Gorgé, Ministre de Suisse à Tokio, a visité personnellement le 5 Mai 1943 le camp d'internement de Negishi Yokohama.

Il eut tout d'abord avec les Autorités du camp un entretien qui lui permit un utile échange de vues. Son impression générale est excellente. Il y a actuellement 53 sujets britanniques et américains internés à ce camp, dont deux sont en traitement à l'hôpital.

Les dortoirs ne sont pas très spacieux, mais les internés n'ont formulé aucune plainte à ce sujet. Ces derniers sont en bonne santé; le traitement qui leur est réservé est excellent et tout empreint d'un esprit de bienveillance de la part des Autorités du camp.

Des prêtres canadiens ont demandé des livres français qui leur ont été refusés, parce qu'il n'y avait au camp aucun fonctionnaire japonais connaissant le français. M. Gorgé tâchera de trouver un moyen pour

A la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique,

B e r n e

satisfaire le désir exprimé par ces internés canadiens.

Le camp de Negishi est magnifiquement situé, sur un champ de courses ensoleillé; il est probable que ce camp sera prochainement supprimé, car les Autorités japonaises aimeraient disposer de l'immeuble où sont logés les internés.

Les fonctionnaires japonais du camp auraient désiré recevoir des renseignements récents sur le traitement réservé aux internés japonais dans l'Empire britannique. M. Gorgé put les rassurer, en leur disant que leurs compatriotes étaient aussi bien traités que les internés à Yokohama. M. Gorgé ajoute cependant qu'il n'a aucune donnée récente à ce sujet et qu'il désirerait recevoir des renseignements qui pourraient lui servir ultérieurement; les Japonais sont en effet très attachés au principe de réciprocité.

Le Département saurait gré à la Légation de Sa Majesté de bien vouloir lui communiquer les renseignements qu'elle jugera utile de faire parvenir à M. Gorgé à cet égard.

Berne, le 12 Mai 1943.