RECORD GROUP 25
83-84/259
VOLUME ~~B-1-201~~ 3005
FILE 3464-AD-40 C

Depart... Affairs

CON...

File No. 3464-AD-40C

Part 1
From 25 Sept. 1942
To 8 August 1944

Subject: PUBLICITY RE TREATMENT OF JAPANESE IN CANADA IN WARTIME

References to Related Files

File No.	Subject
3464-B-40C	TREATMENT OF JAPANESE IN CANADA IN WARTIME--GENERAL FILE
3464-C-40C	INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE IN CANADA
2978-40	TREATMENT OF ENEMY NATIONALS BY JAPAN--REGULATIONS & REPORTS
2998-L-40C	PUBLICITY RE PRISONERS OF WAR IN JAPANESE HANDS
5414-D-40C	Japanese Broadcasts -- Federal Communications Commission Reports

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
RECORDS

L-117-626 288368

~~244~~ 231

HFF/CC

T E L E T Y P E

FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA

TO: THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON

CYPHER
NO. EX-2498

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Filed

Ottawa, June 14, 1944.

Your WA-3405 of June 3rd, relative to Japanese Government complaints of maltreatment of Japanese in Canada.

Under date of Feburary 9th, 1944, the Consul General of Spain in charge of Japanese interests forwarded the following note from the Japanese Govemnment:-

"From report made by Japanese subjects who returned home from Canada through second exchange of requirements arranged between Japan and United States of America it has come to knowledge of Japanese Government that such unfitting means of compulsion as are described in following paragraph were employed by Canadian authorities on Japanese subject engaged in labour in internment camps. Moreover, maltreatment which Japanese internees underwent was apparently inflicted upon them in discrimination from other nationals. Japanese Government therefore lodge protest with Canadian Government, and demand of them fair and just treatment be accorded to Japanese internees.

1. When, in early part of May 1943 at Immigration Office where Japanese residents were retained, and on first July of same year at Ottawa prisoner of war camps, they gathered upstairs to discuss matters relating to their work, sentries fired at them from below. At latter place, camp authorities ordered them to line up in courtyard for rollcall within ten minutes, and threatened to shoot them unless they complied with order. At Anglers internment camp in early part of July 1943 sentry pointed his bayonet at Japanese internees to urge him to work, and wounded him in hip. These are instances of means of compulsion inflicted with arms on unarmed internees.

2. Protest has already been lodged against forced evacuation of majority of Japanese residents in British Columbia to interior. Canadian Government compulsorily disposed of landed estate of these evacuees. No such steps have apparently been taken in respect of property of nationals belonging to other Axis Powers, they must be construed as having taken with sole purpose of persecution Japanese residents."

On April 8th, the following reply was addressed to the Consul General of Spain:-

CYPHER DIVISION
SENT
JUN 14 1944
TELETYPE
Department of External Affairs

"I have the honour to refer to your Note No. 99, J.8 of February 9, transmitting the text of a Note on behalf of the Government of Japan, with regard to the treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada. The Japanese Note makes cettain charges concerning the treatment accorded to Japanese interned in Canada and the disposition of their property. I have had inquiries made by the appropriate authorities and have received a report on these charges.

Dealing first with the matters set forth in paragraph 1 of the Japanese Note, the facts established by the inquiry show that there is no foundation in fact for any of the charges.

The second paragraph of the Japanese Note relates to the treatment of the property of Japanese residents in British Columbia who were evacuated from the coastal area to the interior. This movement was necessary for security reasons, and the subsequent disposition of the property owned by the persons evacuated from the coastal area was made for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the owners, as their property would be subject to rapid deterioration in value during their prolonged absence. The action taken protected the interests of the Japanese residents concerned, and it did not, in any sense, involve persecution, or discrimination against Japanese residents as compared with nationals of other Axis Powers.

It is a matter to be regretted that repatriated Japanese have misinformed their Government with regard to the treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the Government of Japan, in order that it may be recognized that the Canadian Government has, at all times, accorded just and humane treatment, without discrimination, to all Japanese nationals, whether interned or not."

On April 24th, the Consul General of Spain transmitted the following note on behalf of the Japanese Government:-

"The Japanese Government does not consider satisfactory the reply of the Canadian Government dated April 8th of the current year; reiterating protest against the Government of Canada concerning treatment of Japanese residing in Canada; and declares to reserve for itself all rights that might be demanded in the future from the Canadian Government for damages suffered by the subjects of the Japanese Empire, resulting from Canadian injustices such as forcing them to evacuate to the interior and putting their real property under compulsory measures."

It is not known what prompted the Japanese Government to take issue on these matters at this particular juncture. Presumably it was done for the purpose of attempting to establish a balance against complaints lodged by United Nations authorities against treatment of their nationals in Japanese hands. In following the maxim that "offence is the best defence" Japan apparently decided that the most effective defence against United Nations charges was the lodging of complaints of the nature above recited.

The Japanese authorities undoubtedly expected that the second exchange of nationals would produce considerable evidence of maltreatment of Japanese nationals in Canada. The fact that the particular instances of maltreatment are false (and are recognized to be false by the Japanese spokesman of the internment camp) indicates the deception of the Japanese authorities in learning of the basically good treatment extended to Japanese in Canada.

You may make this exchange of notes available to the United States Department of State if you deem it advisable.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3464 AD-46c
Sub. 8 Chron. Filed

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA

PROTECCIONES

MONTREAL. April 24, 1944.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

No. 294
J.26

Sir,

With reference to your Note No. J.18 of April 8th and to mine No. J.19 of April 11th, I have the honour, under instructions received from Madrid, to present to the Canadian Government the following Note:

"The Japanese Government does not consider satisfactory the reply of the Canadian Government dated April 8th of the current year; reiterating protest against the Government of Canada concerning treatment of Japanese residing in Canada; and declares to reserve for itself all rights that might be demanded in the future from the Canadian Government for damages suffered by the subjects of the Japanese Empire, resulting from Canadian injustices such as forcing them to evacuate to the interior and putting their real property under compulsory measures."

I should be highly obliged if you would be good enough to acknowledge this Note at your early convenience.

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.

JER/MJS/CC

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No 3464-AD-40c
Sub 2 Chron 7 Filed 4

NO. J 18. Ottawa, April 8, 1944.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your Note No. 99, J.8 of February 9, transmitting the text of a Note on behalf of the Government of Japan, with regard to the treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada. The Japanese Note makes certain charges concerning the treatment accorded to Japanese interned in Canada and the disposition of their property. I have had inquiries made by the appropriate authorities and have received a report on these charges.

Dealing first with the matters set forth in paragraph 1 of the Japanese Note, the facts established by the inquiry show that there is no foundation in fact for any of the charges.

The second paragraph of the Japanese Note relates to the treatment of the property of Japanese residents in British Columbia who were evacuated from the coastal area to the interior. This movement was necessary for security reasons, and the subsequent disposition of the property owned by the persons evacuated from the coastal area was made for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the owners, as their property would be subject to rapid deterioration in value during their prolonged absence. The action taken protected the interests of the Japanese residents concerned, and it did not, in any sense, involve persecution, or discrimination against Japanese residents as compared with nationals of other Axis Powers.

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

(over)

It is a matter to be regretted that repatriated Japanese have misinformed their Government with regard to the treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the Government of Japan, in order that it may be recognized that the Canadian Government has, at all times, accorded just and humane treatment, without discrimination, to all Japanese nationals, whether interned or not.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED RIVE

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 2 Chron 2 Filed

DRAFT
JER/MJS
April 6/44

Done apr 8/44
e.c

The Consul General for Spain in Canada,
Montreal, P.Q.

No._____

Sir:

I have the honour to refer to your Note No. 99, J.8 of February 9, transmitting the text of a Note on behalf of the Government of Japan, with regard to the treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada. The Japanese Note makes certain charges concerning the treatment accorded to Japanese interned in Canada and the disposition of their property. I have had inquiries made by the appropriate authorities and have received a report on the ~~various~~ charges, ~~made in the Japanese Note.~~

Dealing first with the matters set forth in paragraph 1 of the Japanese Note, the facts established by the inquiry show that there is no foundation in fact for any of the charges.

The second paragraph of the Japanese Note relates to the treatment of the property of Japanese residents in Britsh Columbia who were evacuated from the coastal area to the interior. This movement was necessary for security reasons, and the subsequent disposition of the property owned by the persons evacuated from the coastal area was made for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the owners, as ~~in most cases~~ their property would be subject to rapid deterioration in value during their prolonged absence. The action taken ~~was in~~ the interests of the Japanese residents concerned, and it did not, in any sense, involve persecution, or discrimination ~~of~~ against Japanese residents as compared with nationals of other Axis Powers.

It is a matter to be regretted that repatriated Japanese have misinformed their Government with regard to the

treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the Government of Japan, in order that it may be recognized that the Canadian Government has, at all times, accorded just and humane treatment, without discrimination, to all Japanese nationals, whether interned or ~~at liberty.~~ hrt.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

HFF/CC
March 27, 1944

TO: The Consul General of Spain
in charge of Japanese interests,
Sun Life Building,
Montreal, Que.

Mr Read
Will send
Telegram.

DRAFT

May I have your
OK. to proceed on this
draft by Tuesday? OK

NO. J

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your note No. 99 J 8 of February 9th, transmitting the text of a note on behalf of the Government of Japan relative to the treatment of Japanese nationals in Canada.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORD
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 2 Chron. 2 Filed 14

I am able to make a categorical denial of the allegations contained therein.

No internee of Japanese race has ever been fired upon by Canadian sentries. The falisty of the allegation that Canadian sentries fired from below on Japanese residents "gathered upstairs" at a prisoner of war camp is apparent from the fact, known to yourself, that there are no places occupied by internees of Japanese race which have a second story or upstairs.

There is no foundation to the complaintthat Japanese internees were ordered to line up within ten minutes under threat of being fired upon. No such incident has occurred in the Angler Internment camp at any time since it has been used for the accommodation of the Japanese.

Nor is there any foundation for the allegation that a Japanese internee during the early part of July, 1943, received a bayonet wound in the hip from a Canadian sentry urging him to work.

The facts are:

(1) The present Commandant, who took command of the camp on July 3rd, 1943, states that no internee has ever been bayonetted threatened with a bayonet during his command, and that his staff ~~states~~ asserts that no such incident has happened at any time in Angler Internment Camp.

(2) Escorts or sentries guarding fatigue or working parties have not during the command of the

(over)

present Commandant or his predecessor, fixed bayonets for such duty.

(3) There is no record in the hospital of any bayonet wound being reported at any time in Angler Internment Camp. This is supported by the Camp Medical Officer. Furthermore, the Camp Spokesman, Takikozu TANAKA, made a statement before the Camp Commandant and witnesses to the effect that the allegations set forth in paragraph No. 1 of the text of the note transmitted by you are untrue so far as Angler Internment Camp is concerned. Inasmuch as no Japanese were interned elsewhere in Canada than at Angler Internment Camp during the period referred to, it is apparent that the report made by the repatriated Japanese is entirely false.

The forced evacuation of the majority of Japanese residents in British Columbia (to which objection is made in paragraph No. 2 of the note under reference) resulted from the fact that the Japanese resident in Canada were almost entirely concentrated in the Province of British Columbia which, following the outbreak of war between Canada and Japan, became a strategic military area. The fact that Japanese nationals, as well as a considerable number of Canadian nationals of Japanese racial origin, had earlier manifested a loyalty to Japan, which might be reasonably expected to be demonstrated in the form of activities detrimental to the prosecution of the war by Canada, rendered it necessary to place Japanese nationals and Canadian nationals of Japanese racial origin in districts outside the strategic military area. The subsequent disposition of property owned by such persons was made for the purpose of safe-guarding the interests of the owners because, in most cases, such property would deteriorate greatly in value in the prolonged absence of the owners. It is categorically denied that such steps involve any persecution of Japanese residents or any discrimination

against them in favour of nationals of other Axis powers. Residents of Canada whose racial origin was German or Italian were not concentrated in any particular section of Canada and were therefore not found in any strategic area in such numbers as to require large scale evacuation. Those who were regarded as dangerous to the security of Canada were placed in internment camps. The others remained under surveillance in the/ir places of nurmal residence.

I would be grateful if you would cause this information to be transmitted to the Government of Japan in order that there may be removed any apprehension caused by these false allegations, and in order that the Government of Japan may know that the Canadian Government is taking every measure possible in order to insure that Japanese nationals in Canada are afforded the best treatment possible under the circumstances in order to insure their health and welfare.

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

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

SMS/LSTA
7/11/42

COMPLAINTS OF JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL REGARDING TREATMENT OF JAPANESE.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c

1. The most constant complaint is that the relief paid to Japanese is not adequate.

2. Less constant but more ~~vital~~ vigorous is the complaint that Japanese civilians are compelled to work while Canadians in Japanese hands are not so compelled.

3. Japanese Government ~~parties~~ complains formally against whole evacuation policy.

4. Japanese Government ~~parties~~ complains formally against general housing and living condition in interior of British Columbia.

5. Particularly schooling is said to be too limited.

6. A clothing allowance is requested.

7. Pay and assignment cheques are late in arrival

8. Recreation facilities are much limited.

9. Sandon is the least satisfactory, the cost of living being higher and communication being in danger of being cut ~~off~~ in Winter.

10. Slocan is said to be over-crowded.

11. A major complaint is that the Japanese do not understand what arrangements have been made concerning the property they left behind them.

12. A constant complaint respecting internees is that assurances made to the Consul General that special food would be provided for them - have not been kept. Consul General says that Soy bean, sauce, is monopolized by Chinese who have raised price from $3 to $15.

Mr. Mackenzie will discuss with Wards
Mr. McNamara who will do
10.11.42 R report

13. On behalf of internees complaint is also made that mail takes a month to reach their relatives. Incidentally Consul General mentioned delay in his own mail.

14. Consul General complains about method of selecting leaders in settlements. He thinks he should be a party in the selection.

AVR/EN
Sept. 25/42

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40 6R
Sub. Chron. Filed

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY:

Telling Japan how well we treat Japanese in Canada.

3464+AD 40c
3464-B 40c

I am not sure that I grasp the point of the attached letter or what part the Wartime Information Board is to play in telling the Japanese Government how well its nationals are treated in Canada. To take this line in the Canadian Press would probably be to defeat this end by raising a public demand for harsher measures. I am not aware that the Wartime Information Board issues releases in Japan.

The best bit of work which has been done so far along the lines suggested by Dr. Parsons was the trip of inspection made in July by the Consul General of Spain and the Delegate in Canada of the International Red Cross to Japanese camps and settlements in the West. Both these gentlemen returned what were on the whole very satisfactory reports. The photographs which have been supplied them since should reinforce their favourable reports.

If the policy of placating the Japanese is to be pursued some of the things to be done are to tell the Custodian of Enemy Property to be a little more liberal in the application of his regulations affecting Japanese, to tell the Commissioner of Internment Operations that the internment camp at Angler is to be a model camp and to allow the more reliable Japanese, subject to security considerations, to settle in and take work in eastern communities away from the defence area. The more quietly these measures can be effected the better, but I think you first have to sell the policy to Mr. McLarty, Mr. Mitchell and Colonel Ralston and then to other members of the War Committee. In short the more I think about this letter the less I see the reason for it.

A.V.R

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA

PROTECCIONES

MONTREAL. February 9, 1944.

No. 99
J.8

SPECIAL DELIVERY

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 2 Chron. 17 Filed 1/

A.7438

Sir,

In compliance with the request of the Japanese Legation at Madrid, contained in a cable received from my Government to-day, I have the honour to transmit to you the following Note:

"From report made by Japanese subjects who returned home from Canada through second exchange of requirements arranged between Japan and United States of America it has come to knowledge of Japanese Government that such unfitting means of compulsion as are described in following paragraph were employed by Canadian authorities on Japanese subjects engaged in labour in internment camps. Moreover maltreatment which Japanese internees underwent was apparently inflicted upon them in discrimination from other nationals. Japanese Government therefore lodge protest with Canadian Government, and demand of them fair and just treatment be accorded to Japanese internees.

1. When, in early part of May 1943 at Immigration Office where Japanese residents were retained, and on first July of same year at Ottawa prisoner of war camps, they gathered upstairs to discuss matters relating to their work, sentries fired at them from below. At latter place, camp authorities ordered them to line up in courtyard for rollcall within ten minutes, and threatened to shoot them unless they complied with order. At Anglers internment camp in early part of July 1943 sentry pointed his bayonet at Japanese internee to urge him to work, and wounded him in hip. These are instances of means of compulsion inflicted with arms on unarmed internees.

2. Protest has already been lodged against forced evacuation of majority of Japanese residents in British Columbia to interior. Canadian Government compulsorily disposed of landed estate of these evacuees. No such steps have apparently been taken

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

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA

MONTREAL.

PROTECCIONES

in respect of property of nationals belonging to other Axis Powers, they must be construed as having been taken with sole purpose of persecution Japanese residents." ///

I should be highly obliged if you would be good enough to acknowledge this Note at your earliest convenience.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

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

COPY

DOMINIONS OFFICE

Downing Street,
S.W.1.

WF.290/1/1. 17th March, 1943.

Dear Ignatieff,

Would you please refer to your letter C.A.S.2/9 of the 28th January, and my letter of the 2nd March, on the question whether the Spanish Consul-General's reports on trips of inspection to Japanese camps and settlements by members of his staff in July last, and the reply from the Canadian Government to the Japanese protest, were in fact communicated by the Japanese Embassy in Madrid to Tokyo and their receipt acknowledged.

H.M. Embassy at Madrid have now been informed by the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs that as far as they know all their reports have been passed on to Tokyo by the Japanese Embassy in Madrid. Although they do not think acknowledgments have been received to all the communications to Japan, they gave the British Embassy a copy of a telegram from Tokio, of which copy is enclosed, containing the Japanese Government's reply to the communication from the Canadian Government referred to in telegram No. 2362 of 19th December from the Department of External Affairs to you, of which you sent us a copy. A copy of the Japanese Government's telegram has already been forwarded by bag to the Spanish Consul-General at Montreal for communication to the Canadian Government.

The Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs consider the receipt of this reply as sufficient evidence that their communications to the Japanese Government have all arrived. They have further, stated that in any case they have no means of communicating with their representatives in Tokyo except by telegraph or through the Japanese themselves, their bag service having completely broken down.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Norman E. Archer.

G. IGNATIEFF, ESQ.

COPY.

Imperial Japanese Government acknowledge receipt of Canadian Government's reply to their recent protest concerning treatment accorded Japanese residents in Canada by Canadian authorities and take note that Canadian Government are interested to learn source of information regarding facts pointed out in aforesaid protest. Japanese Government took as basis of protests reports presented to them by non-official residents in Canada who returned to Japan by first exchange ship. These reports consist of facts supplied by Japanese who had to evacuate from protected areas, including those ascertained through investigation of settlements and working camps by Japanese security committee and naturalised Japanese Canadian association who actually co-operated in evacuation, and, particularly, facts contained in report of personal experiences at Yellow Head and Red Pass made by Mr. Sdippes Katsukawa, one of those who returned by exchange ship mentioned above. According to these reports, many of Japanese who were physically fit to work were summoned to local police station, and ordered to evacuate within definite period to working camp prescribed by authorities. During this period, there were reported many cases in which they forced, at point of revolver, to sign contract papers stipulating for payment of (1) 75 cents per day as charge for meals and (11) 20 dollars per month for remittance for maintenance of their families out of wages which they were to receive for their road work. Some persons were interned on account of their refusal to go to working camp, while in all cases Japanese ordered to evacuate protected areas were not permitted to express any preference regarding regions to which they should remove. They were simply forced to go to working camp prescribed by authorities to do prescribed work. This cannot be called by any other name than enforced labour. Canadian Government state that they have never interned Japanese merely because of their refusal to perform enforced labout but because of their refusal to obey evacuation order. But as evacuation order left them no choice but to engage in prescribed road work, it amounts in reality to the same thing as their having been interned because they refused to do enforced labout. At Yellow Head, evacuated Japanese were forced to live in old bunk cars during month after their arrival there and they had to construct and prepare hutments, beds, baths, and lavatories etc. for themselves. Electric and heating system within camp was primitive and inadequate. Although price for meal at camp was fixed at 25 cents, meals served were of such cheap and poor quality, much below value of 25 cents, owing in all probability to corrupt practices among camp officials, that many persons suffered from diarrhoea and there also occurred many cases of appendicitis. On other hand, as regards medical establishment, there was only one hutment hospital, which was under construction at Red Pass, for seventeen hundred Japanese who were at some 17

working camps between Blue River, B.C., and Jasper, Alberta. Thus, coupled with inconveniences which affected local traffic, protection of Japanese who were evacuated to these areas must be regarded as very inadequate.

SMS/LSTA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40d
Sub. Class 3 Filed
Ref: Labour
Done 25/3/43
LSTA.

DEPARTMENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

No.J. 58

Ottawa, March 22, 1943.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 2 J2 of January 4th, 1943, conveying a protest from the Japanese Government against alleged mistreatment of Japanese nationals in Canada.

At the time this despatch was received, an officer of this Department, accompanying the Delegate in Canada of the International Red Cross Committee, was making a tour of the Japanese settlements in the West. A similar trip was in prospect shortly afterwards for your Consul in Vancouver, Mr. de Kobbe. I deferred answering your despatch until the reports of these various officers to their respective principals had been received. Mr. de Kobbe has now finished his trip and I do not doubt that he has sent you a full report of it.

The Government of Canada fully believes that the best way to answer complaints against the treatment of Japanese nationals in this country is to ensure that the Japanese Government receives reliable reports based on the investigations of impartial persons. The reports sent to Japan by you, as representative of the Protecting Power, are of course what must be chiefly relied upon to present the truth to the Japanese Government. You were good enough to send to this Department a copy of the report which you wrote after your own visit to the Western

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

settlements last summer and I presume you have from time to time sent despatches on particular subjects. It is a cause of deep regret and some surprise to the Government of Canada that these reports seem to have had so little effect upon the degree of understanding of the situation in Canada which the Japanese Government, judging by their protest, appear to possess.

You will, perhaps, permit me to make a request in this connection. Would it be possible for you to ascertain whether, in fact, the Government of Japan has acknowledged the receipt of the report of your Western trip which you sent to your Government at Madrid in the summer of 1942. It is presumed that the representative of the Spanish Government in Tokyo could easily make this enquiry if the information does not exist in Madrid.

I turn now specifically to the Japanese protest contained in your despatch No. 2/J2. The substantial truth in this despatch is that Japanese nationals in Canada were compulsorily removed from the so-called "protected area" near the Pacific Coast. This was an area susceptible to attack by the enemy and as an ordinary military precaution, it was necessary to remove nationals of enemy countries. There is no need to apologize for this procedure, common to all countries in wartime.

The picture given in the Japanese protest of the method of evacuation and the treatment of evacuated Japanese, is substantially untrue. Physical force was not used in the evacuation, revolvers were not pointed at the Japanese, nor was any form of firearm or ather weapon employed. It is true that for the first few weeks, the accommodation in the work camps was less comfortable than it now is. But it was never of a lower standard than that prevailing in work camps generally in this country. Workmen in Canada, for many years, have been accustomed to living for short periods, not only in conditions similar to those in which the Japanese first lived, but indeed in the very bunk cars, of standard construction, used by the Japanese there. These cars

are still being used by the Occidental construction crews across Canada; there are cars in which the men have their sleeping quarters and there are cook-house cars where their meals are served. For short periods of occupancy, these cars are not uncomfortable. As you are aware, they were soon replaced by more substantial and permanent quarters which Mr. de Kobbe must have seen.

At no time was there lack of medical care and attention for the Japanese. It is impossible, from the nature of things, to have a doctor in each small construction unit but doctors visit the units whenever necessary, and dental and medical care is always available.

The food served to the Japanese is of the same high quality as that given to occidental construction crews. There is no good reason why persons paid for working should not pay for their meals and the amount charged for the meals is, in fact, less than their cost price. Nor is there any reason why Japanese in good employment should not contribute toward the upkeep of their families. The system of requiring Japanese in road camps to assign money to their families rests on a sound principle and it is proposed to continue it.

As to the allegation that Japanese are compelled either to work or to be interned, nothing could be more contrary to facts. Your representative must have seen hundreds of families in the Japanese settlements, no one member of which was working, and yet all of whom were being supppрted from Government funds.

I am confident that the results of your investigation and those of Mr. de Kobbe and Mr. de Yturraldi will have convinced you of the fairness with which the Government of Canada treats Japanese nationals within this country. These standards have been retained partly from natural motives of humanity, partly from the desire to secure for our people in the hands of the Japanese similar standards of comfort.

It is for this reason that I am especially anxious that the Japanese Government should be given a true picture of the situation in Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

pp H.H. Wrong

Acting Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 7 Chron 3 Filed

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA
MONTREAL

Montreal, January 4, 1943.

No. 2
J. 2

5296

Sir :

I have the honour to inform you that yesterday and by cable I have received from my Government the reply that the Imperial Japanese Government give to your note No. J. 95 dated October 27th. This cable reads as follows :

" Imperial Japanese Government acknowledge receipt of Canadian Government's reply to their recent protest concerning treatment accorded Japanese residents in Canada by Canadian Authorities and take note that Canadian Government are interested to learn source of information regarding facts pointed out in aforesaid protest. Japanese Government took as bases of protests reports presented to them by nonofficial residents in Canada who returned to Japan by first exchange ship. These reports consist of facts supplied by Japanese who had to evacuate from protected areas, including those ascertained through investigation of settlements and working camps by Japanese Security Committee and Naturalized Japanese Canadian Association who actually co-operated in evacuation, and, particularly, facts contained in report of personal experience at Yellowhead and Red Pass made by Mr. Shinpei Katsukawa, one of those who returned by exchange ship mentioned above. According to these reports, many of Japanese who were physically fit to work were summoned to local police stations, and ordered to evacuate within definite period to working camp prescribed by authorities. During these period, there were reported many cases in which they were forced, at point of revolver, to sign contract papers stipulating for payment of 1.- Seventy five cents per day as charge for meals and 2.- Twenty dollars per month for remittance for maintenance of their families out of wages which they were to receive for their road work. Some persons were interned on account of their refusal to go to working camp, while in all cases Japanese ordered to evacuate protected areas were not permitted to express any preference regarding regions to which they should remove. They were simply forced to go to working camp prescribed by authorities to do prescribed work. This cannot be called by any other name than enforced labour. Canadian Government state that they have never interned Japanese merely because of their refusal to perform enforced labour but because of their refusal to obey evacuation order. But as evacuation order left them no choice but to engage in prescribed road work, it amounts in reality to same thing as their having been interned because they refused to do enforced labour.

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

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA
MONTREAL

No. 2
J. 2

At Yellowhead, evacuated Japanese were forced to live in old bunk cars during months after their arrival there and they had to construct and prepare hutments, beds, baths, and lavatories etc., for themselves. Electric and heating system within camp was primitive and inadequated. Although price for meal at camp was fixed at twenty five cents, meals served were of such cheap and poor quality, much below value of twenty five cents, owing in all probabilities to corrupt practices among camp officials, that many persons suffered from diarrhoea and there also occurred many cases of appendicitis. On other hand, as regards medical establishment, there was only one hutment hospital, which was under construction at Red Pass, for seventeen hundred Japanese who were at some seventeen working camps between Blue River, and Jasper, Alberta. Thus, coupled with inconveniences which affected local traffic, protection of Japanese who were evacuated to these areas must be regared as very inadequate. [redacted]. ".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

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

ONE COPY OF THIS MESSAGE APPROVED BY AN AUTHORIZING OFFICER TO BE DELIVERED TO THE TELETYPE ROOM

IMMEDIATE ( )
OR
ROUTINE (x)

TELETYPE MESSAGE

CYPHER ( )
OR
EN CLAIR (x)

NO. WA-3995 DATE December 26, 1942

To: **THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - OTTAWA**

From: **THE CANADIAN MINISTER - WASHINGTON**

Originated by Hector Allard

Authorized by [illegible] Time 12.13

Despatched by I&R Time 1.14 pm.

PLEASE USE DOUBLE SPACING WHEN TYPING THE MESSAGE BELOW

Following for From Begins:

Your EX-3321 of December 23, 1942. Publicity regarding prisoners of war camps in Canada.

Upon receiving your original message of December 4th, this matter was discussed very informally with the Special Division when they stated they would inquire around and see what the general reaction to such a scheme would be. Not having heard from them before the reception of your message under reference, a call was made on the Acting Chief of the Special Division, who, while not wanting to be quoted, stated that as far as the State Department was concerned there were strong objections to giving publicity over the radio concerning the treatment of internees in Japanese settlements. There has been some rather strong criticism at the way in which the Japanese have been treated by the American authorities and the State Department is of the opinion that any broadcasts intended for Japanese consumption would not attain its main purpose of reaching the Japanese people. They claim that the Japanese will not for one moment believe any broadcasts coming from the United States. They will immediately label any such broadcasts as enemy propaganda. Meanwhile, it is more than likely that broadcasts intended for Japan will find their way into the American press and will only increase the bitterness of a good many Americans at the fine treatment the Japanese are getting, when they consider that American citizens cannot even be sent relief supplies.

The State Department's feeling is that broadcasts, which on the

Transferred from Wash. file archives section 22/5/63

Ends.

(If further space is required please use a second page)

face of it would seem to be an excellent form of propaganda, are likely to be received with great suspicion if they come from an enemy country. As stated in previous reports the State Department is most insistent upon having the representative of the power representing Japanese interests in this country, visit the camps where Japanese are interned so that they may report about the good treatment given the Japanese by the American authorities. This is as a protection for themselves because if any complaints are made by the Japanese government they can go to the Protecting Power and indicate to them that it is assumed that complete information about the good treatment granted the Japanese internees in the United States has been reported to the Japanese Government. Official reports, they claim, are the one way of combatting adverse publicity from the enemy side. It is felt, however, that perhaps if the competent Canadian and United States officials, for instance Wartime Information Board and the Office of War Information, got together to discuss this matter they might hold very different views from the State Department, but if any approach is made to the State Department officially, this is the general line of reaction we would receive from them.

The question of publicity has been one about which interested officials seem to agree to disagree and the only way in which this matter might be tackled to the satisfaction of all concerned would be to have a discussion between Canadian and American officials concerned, especially if we are anxious to synchronize our respective policies in that respect.

Ends.

ha:mc

BM FOR AVR/DEK

TELETYPE.

RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 7 Chron. 3 Filed

FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

TO : THE CANADIAN MINISTER, WASHINGTON.

Brig. Kay
C. I. O.
Col. Clarke (Mr. Smart)
W. I. B (Mr. Smart)
Press Censor
BM. done AVR/DEK

Ottawa, December 3rd, 1942.

CYPHER

NO. EX-3116

My EX.2783. November 5th. Paragraphs 6 to 8. Publicity to be given on treatment of Japanese in Canada.

The whole question of publicity on prisoner of war camps in Canada was considered at a meeting of representatives of the Departments concerned and it was agreed that there should be less secrecy in this matter. Since all enemy aliens in our hands are being fairly and humanely treated, it might react to the benefit of our own prisoners of war in enemy hands if some of the facts were made known to the enemy.

The meeting agreed that desirable means of propaganda might include short wave broadcasts to Germany, short wave propaganda to Japan, subject to agreement of the United States and United Kingdom, information given to Ottawa correspondents who would be encouraged to write articles with a view to having the public realize that good conditions in prisoner of war camps in Canada are beneficial to British prisoners of war in enemy hands. There is no thought of allowing newspaper correspondents in camps, publishing photographs of prisoners of war, permitting stories to be released without submission to proper Departments, or changing the present policy regarding "hot news".

I should appreciate learning as soon as possible the attitude of the United States authorities to the proposed scheme of short wave broadcasts, especially to Japan.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OK JR

CYPHER DIVISION
SENT
DEC 4 1942
TELETYPE
Department of External Affairs

AVR/EN

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464 AD 40c
Sub. 1 Class 3

Ottawa, December 3rd, 1942.

No. 19

Sir,

As you are no doubt aware the Japanese radio in recent broadcasts has alleged that the Canadian authorities are, as a matter of policy, maltreating Japanese subjects in this country. We have of course drawn the attention of the representative of the Protecting Power for Japanese interests to the falsity of these charges and requested him to deny them in communication to the Japanese Covernment.

I feel, however, that the truth about the treatment of Japanese subjects by the Canadian authorities can best be told by a neutral observer such as yourself. You are acquainted with the Canadian Departments administering regulations concerning the transfer of Japanese subjects from the defence areas on the coast, you have visited Japanese camps and settlements and I understand that a report of your findings has gone forward to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would request the Committee to publish your report in their monthly "Revue" and having done so give authority for a republication or quotation in Canada and elsewhere.

We should also be glad to have the International Red Cross Committee publish any subsequent reports which you may make regarding the treatment of Japanese subjects in Canada and will continue to offer you every facility to visit Japanese communities anywhere in Canada.

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

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

E.L. Maag, Esq.,
Delegate in Canada of the
International Red Cross
Committee,
Montreal, P.Q.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 6 Chron. 21 Filed

Was this letter sent, or cancelled?
M. McK.
March 24/43

copy on 2998-40c

Ottawa, November 5th, 1942.

Confidential

Dear Mr. Vining,

This Department is concerned about the recent tendency, which the Japanese Gov ernment appears to be manifesting, to pay less and less attention to the best principles of international law regarding the treatment of enemy prisoners of war and civilians.

Their recent threat to take reprisals against United States airmen, their refusal to permit representatives of our Protecting Power to visit Canadians at Hong Kong and delays in transmitting lists of prisoners of war are unwelcome departures from the "correct" attitude which the Japanese Foreign Office at the beginning of the war appeared to be following.

We had previously noted evidence of the good intentions of the Foreign Office at Tokyo and assumed that the responsibility for the ill-treatment of Canadians at Hong Kong and other departures from the spirit of the Conventions rested with the military authorities or other Departments of the Japanese Government.

Recently, however, we have received from the Spanish Consul General in charge of Japanese interests a protest against the alleged inhuman treatment of Japanese subjects in Canada by the Canadian authorities. The charges were specious and quite contrary to the reports which we know the Spanish Consul General had transmitted on conditions among Japanese in Canada. We were therefore able to reply that the Japanese Government had obviously been misinformed and to request the Spanish Consul General to correct the wrong impression which they had evidently received from misleading reports.

This protest may have no special significance and may be nothing more than an effort by the Japanese Foreign Office to provide material for domestic propaganda. On the other hand, it may mean that the Japanese Government are considering embarking on the use of frightfulness in their conduct of the war. If so, they are probably acting in ~~consort~~ accord with the other members of the Axis, the shackling of Canadian prisoners of war by the Germans and of the vituperative

C. Vining, Esq.,
Director of Public Information,
O t t a w a .

propaganda broadcasts from Rome may be all part of the one conspiracy.

It seems just probable that the Japanese authorities may really believe that at least some of the charges of maltreatment of Japanese in Canada are true and it is doubtful whether rebuttals of these charges which we have made or the reports of the Spanish Consul General receive sufficient circulation even among Government officials in Japan to correct these beliefs. As the Canadian Government intend to continue treating Japanese subjects in Canada fairly and humanely and as generously as possible in the hope of securing fair treatment for their own nationals in Japanese hands, it seems desirable to spread the truth about the treatment of Japanese subjects in Canada as widely as possible in Japan.

While the shortwave broadcasts from this Continent or from Australia would not be accessible to ordinary Japanese civilians in Japan, it seems probable that they would be received by higher Government officials and military and naval officers and would receive some circulation in reports of the Japanese monitoring services. It is generally believed that the Japanese wish to earn the respect of other Nations including those with whom they are at war.

The question arises whether by the use of carefully designed shortwave broadcasts in Japanese reach this group of Japanese Government officials and officers of their Army and Navy, we might not be able to influence their treatment of Canadian prisoners of war and civilians. I have in mind that we should proclaim the principles of "correct" behaviour as between opposing belligerents in the treatment of each other's nationals whether prisoners of war or civilians and tell how the Canadian Government is adhering to these principles. We might give descriptions of the Japanese settlements, of the type of country in which they are located and of the work in which the Japanese are occupied. Consideration might also be given to transmitting reports made by Japanese in Canada, not so much for the consumption of their relatives as it is doubtful if they would reach any ordinary persons in Japan, but to press upon the officials and officers who would hear or read them that Japanese subjects in Canada are in fact being well treated.

I should be grateful if an expression of your views as to how best to approach this problem. Possibly you might consider it useful to discuss it or to have one of your officers discuss it with Mr. Rive and Mr. Stone of this Department and that after a preliminary discussion we might call an informal meeting of the Departments interested.

In this connection I enclose copy of our teletype No. EX-2783 of November 5th which has been sent to the Canadian Minister, Washington.

Yours sincerely,

Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

AVR/DEK

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 6 Chron. 21 Filed

TELETYPE.

FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

TO : THE CANADIAN MINISTER - WASHINGTON.

Ottawa, November 5, 1942.

original on 2998-40c

SECRET

CYPHER

NO. EX-2783

1. The Canadian Government are disturbed about reports eminating from Japan that the Japanese Government propose to bring to trial and punish United States airmen ~~alleged to have bombed and machine gunned~~ whom they claim to hold as prisoners and who took part ~~schools and hospitals~~ in an air raid on Japan. It is feared that the Japanese Government may be considering embarking on a policy of frightfulness. In this connection, I may say that representations were recently received from the Spanish Consul General as representative of the Protecting Power for Japanese interests against the alleged ill treatment of Japanese subjects in Canada. The charges against the Canadian Government were specious and not at all in conformity with the report made by the Spanish Consul General himself after his trip of inspection of Japanese camps and settlements throughout the West. That, and other reports which we have seen, were on the whole favourable. We know that he has not transmitted any serious complaints to his Government through the usual channels. We were able to reply that the Japanese Government had obviously been misinformed and to request the Spanish Consul General to correct the wrong impression which they had evidently received from misleading reports.

2. The Canadian Government policy is as far as possible to avoid giving cause for legitimate complaints on the subject of treatment of Japanese subjects, and to go as far as possible towards meeting complaints which might sometimes be considered unreasonable. This conciliatory attitude is being maintained in all contacts with the Spanish Consul General, although recently he has shown a tendency to take objection to quite reasonable actions by the Canadian authorities.

3. The following is an example: The Consul General asked us for lists of Japanese subjects in various localities in Canada. It was found impossible to make up definitive lists because of a number of persons whose nationality was in doubt. Further, a number of Japanese subjects,

sent

chiefly members of families the majority of whom are Canadian nationals (e.g. an unnaturalized father or eldest son where the other members of the family were Canadians by birth or naturalized) have refused to have information about them transmitted to the Consul General of Spain. The Canadian authorities concerned therefore circulated alternative forms of statement for signature by all Japanese, claiming the protection of the Spanish representative or refusing his protection. The Spanish Consul General has taken strong objection to the circulation of this form, but on the other hand is still pressing for definitive lists of Japanese subjects.

4. The Canadian authorities intend ~~as far as possible~~ to maintain their policy of treating ~~the~~ Japanese subjects in Canada as humanely and as generously and fairly as possible. Those on relief are receiving allowances on an equal footing with Canadian nationals. It is not believed that there is any serious cause for complaint although the Consul General is pressing for increased allowances. The possibility of releasing a number of heads of families from internment and allowing them to rejoin their families is under consideration and a favourable decision is expected.

5. It is presumed that the United States Government are following a policy more or less parallel to our own. However, we would like to have confirmation of this, and in particular to be informed whether in the event of the Japanese taking reprisals against United States airmen or other POW's in their hands, the United States authorities would contemplate a change of policy.

6. It is thought that the Japanese authorities may really believe the truth of some at least of the charges of mistreatment of Japanese subjects which they have levied against the Canadian Government and it is doubtful whether our rebuttals of these charges and the reports of the Spanish Consul General receive sufficient circulation even among Government officials in Japan to correct this impression. Although not accessible to the ordinary Japanese civilian in Japan, it seems probable that short wave broadcasts in Japanese on actual conditions among Japanese in Canada, on the treatment of Japanese by the Canadian authorities and so

on, and possibly some messages from Japanese subjects in Canada, might have a sufficient audience among Government officials, army and navy to convince them of the humane and indeed generous treatment being accorded Japanese subjects in Canada by the Canadian Government. There is, as you know, no short wave station in Canada which could be utilized for this purpose and the only stations available would appear to be in the United States, and Australia ~~and~~ ~~Peru~~.

7. It is not desired to make a formal approach to the United States authorities at this stage but it is thought it would be useful if on the basis of the above information you could arrange a discussion of this subject among the members of your staff interested and if a preliminary sounding out of the views of their opposite members in the United States Government Departments were undertaken in personal conversations. In the meantime we propose to call a meeting of the Departments interested.

8. We would appreciate your keeping us continuously informed.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

COPY

FROM: THE SPANISH CONSUL GENERAL IN CHARGE OF JAPANESE INTERESTS, MONTREAL

TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA 3764-AD-40c

Montreal, October 20th, 1942

Spanish Government request me to transmit to that Government the following telegram. Japanese Government have received following report concerning compulsory removal of the Japanese residents from Pacific Coast region ordered by Canadian Government following upon establishment of protected areas in same region Canadian Government by order of Government General dated fourteenth January 1942 declares certain areas on Pacific Coast of depth of hundred miles to be protected areas and early in February ordered all enemy aliens of conscription age(males aged from eighteen to fortyfive) residing in same areas to evacuate by 1st April it was decided that male Japanese subjects among those evacues could be employed in road construction in rocky mountains around Jasper Alberta Canadian Government pretended to invite volunteers for work but fact was that each evacues was forced to sign contract purporting to be made he was offering labour of his free will and from some evacuees who refused for reasons of health etc consent was exhorted at point of revolver those who were engaged in road building were provided with no housing accommodation but were put in shabby railways ins and given insufficient food in short they were forced to live like hed of cattle later on scope of evacuation was enlarged all Japanese residents were ordered to evacuate and even aged people as well as women and children were compulsorily removed to barren waste land in interior Japanese Government cannot but infer from above report that intention of the Canadian Government is to deprive all Japanese residents in Canada of their means of subsistence on pretence of establishment of protected areas and send them to interior severing men from their wives and children and put them to hard compulsory labour and force aged people and women and children to live in wild desolate places apart from heads of their families such is unprecedented outrage of humanity it is established international usage generally observed among civilized nations that enemy civilians should not be put to any compulsory labour of any kind in any circumstances moreover Canadian Government declared at outbreak of war that they would apply as far as possible to interned civilians provisions of Geneva Convention relating to treatment of prisoners of war above mentioned measures taken by the Canadian Government are contrary to both general principles of international usage and declaration of Canadian Government Japanese Government made similar declaration to that of Canadian Government that they will on condition of reciprocity adhere to provisions of Geneva Convention it is to be mentioned that Japanese Government have not imposed on any Canadians whether interned or not any compulsory labour of any kind Japanese Government therefore lodge most emphatic protest against inhuman measures taken by Canadian Government in regard to Japanese residents Canada and demand Canadian Government immediately to cease endorsement of compulsory labour imposed on Japanese evacues Japanese Government also demand from Canadian Government report on measure of protection accorded by Canadian Government to Japanese evacues such as to protect property left behind by them allow them to make use of it supply them with adequate housing accommodation and proper means of subsistence at places where they have been conveyed relieve the aged and the poor who have been severed from heads of their families and to furnish them with means of medical treatment and education.

CONSUL GENERAL OF SPAIN IN CHARGE OF JAPANESE INTERESTS.

AVR/EN

Copy & Pth/ults
R C.G.
Telegram
Ottawa, Oct. 28/42 E.R.

Ottawa, October 27th, 1942.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. 6 Chron. 1

No. J.95

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your telegram of October 20th transmitting the text of a telegram from your Government relating to the treatment of Japanese subjects in Canada, and stating that the Japanese Government have received a report concerning the compulsory removal of the Japanese residents from the protected areas of the Pacific Coast. The Canadian Government have received the text of this report with some surprise and would be interested to learn the source from which it was obtained as it is clear from it that the Japanese Government have been misinformed. The Canadian Government would not deny that there have been some individual cases of hardship, but I believe that you will concur in the statement that the authorities have done everything reasonably possible to adjust the legitimate grievances of any Japanese subjects. In particular, I feel sure that you will be able out of your own knowledge to assre the Japanese Government that far from desiring to deprive Japanese subjects in Canada of their means of livelihood, the Canadian Government have made every effort to provide them with suitable and congenial employment, and where necessary, have provided financial assistance out of Canadian Government funds.

You are also aware that although for reasons of security and because whole families could not be transferred at once, it was necessary to move some Japanese males of military age out of the protected areas in advance of their families; the families have now been transferred to the

The Consul General of Spain in c arge of Japanese Interests,
Montreal, P.Q.

various settlements and have been joined by their husbands and fathers.

Further, I hope you will also endeavour to make clear to the Japanese Government that the families of Japanese subjects transferred from the protected areas have not been sent "to live in wild desolate places" but that the settlements in which they have been established are in small communities in some of the most fertile and beautiful districts of Western Canada where ample opportunities exist for local employment and where rich, fertile soil will enable them to grow all the fruits and vegetables to which they have been accustomed.

I trust also that you will endeavour to correct the impression which the Japanese Government appear to have received of conditions at the road construction camps. You will remember that at only one camp were the workers housed in tents and even at this camp the tents were provided with wooden floors and side walls. As for the food supply, the meal which you were provided with at the construction camp on the Hope Princeton highway was the ordinary standard fare of the camps.

It is noted that the report states that some Japanese subjects were forced at the point of a revolver to sign contracts to accept work in road construction. Any such action by a police officer or other person to secure the signature of a Japanese subject against his will would be contrary to policy and instructions of the Canadian authorities. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would supply me with specific information of any cases in which this is alleged to have occurred. On receipt of this information from you an immediate investigation will be ordered.

It is true that it has been found necessary to intern a number of Japanese male subjects but it is not correct to state that this was done because they refused compulsory labour. On the contrary their internment was made necessary because of their refusal to obey the evacuation order and their general hostile attitude. The small number interned in relation to the total number of Japanese in Canada should be sufficient evidence to the Japanese Government that the internment of Japanese is contrary to the policy of the Canadian

Government and has only been resorted to in exceptional cases. In fact the Canadian Government endeavours to treat all Japanese in Canada with consideration and to impose on them only such restrictions of their freedom as are made necessary by the state of war now existing between Canada and Japan.

May I assure you again that the Canadian Government are desirous of cooperating with you in your work on behalf of Japanese subjects in Canada. You or your representative are at liberty at any time to communicate with or to visit any Japanese subjects in Canada wherever they may be and transmit full reports for the information of the Japanese Government. We shall continue to give earnest attention to any representations which you may feel called upon to make and to adjust as quickly as possible any legitimate grievances or complaints.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

N. A. Robertson

Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

AVR/EN

C.D. IX

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS MONTREAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AD-40c
Sub. Chron. Filed

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MONTREAL QUE OCT 20 1251P

479

NORMAN A ROBERTSON
UNDER SECRETARY STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OTTAWA

SPANISH GOVERNMENT REQUEST ME TO TRANSMIT TO THAT GOVERNMENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM STOP JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAVE RECEIVED FOLLOWING REPORT CONCERNING COMPULSORY REMOVAL OF THE JAPANESE RESIDENTS FROM PACIFIC COAST REGION ORDERED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING UPON ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN SAME REGION CANADIAN GOVERNMENT BY ORDER OF GOVERNMENT GENERAL DATED FOURTEENTH JANUARY 1942 DECLARES

(2-61/59)

CERTAIN AREAS ON PACIFIC COAST OF DEPTH OF HUNDRED MILES TO BE PROTECTED AREAS AND EARLY IN FEBRUARY ORDERED ALL ENEMY ALIENS OF CONSCRIPTION AGE (MALES AGED FROM EIGHTEEN TO FORTYFIVE) RESIDING IN SAME AREAS TO EVACUATE BY 1ST APRIL IT WAS DECIDED THAT MALE JAPANESE SUBJECTS AMONG THOSE EVACUES COULD BE EMPLOYED IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ROCKY

(57)

MOUNTAINS AROUND JASPER ALBERTA CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PRETENDED TO INVITE VOLUNTEERS FOR WORK BUT FACT WAS THAT EACH EVACUES WAS FORCED TO SIGN CONTRACT PURPORTING TO BE MADE HE WAS OFFERING LABOUR OF HIS FREE WILL AND FROM SOME EVACUEES WHO REFUSED FOR REASONS OF HEALTH ETC CONSENT WAS EXTORTED AT POINT OF REVOLVER THOSE WHO WERE ENGAGED

(4-58)

IN ROAD BUILDING WERE PROVIDED WITH NO HOUSING ACCOMMODATION BUT WERE PUT IN SHABBY RAILWAYS INS AND GIVEN INSUFFICIENT FOOD IN SHORT THEY WERE FORCED TO LIVE LIKE HED OF CATTLE LATER ON SCOPE OF EVACUETION WAS ENLARGED ALL

AVR/EN

C.D. 1X

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D.NEIL, General Manager of Communications, Montreal

ADARD TIME
INDICATED

2NB BOOK MONTREAL...MR ROBERTSON OTTAWA ..OCT 20

JAPANESE RESIDENTS WERE ORDERED TO EVACUATE AND EVEN AGED PEOPLE AS WELL AS WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE COMPULSORILY REMOVED (5-57)

TO BARREN WASTE LAND IN INTERIOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BUT INFER FROM ABOVE REPORT THAT INTENTION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS TO DEPRIVE ALL JAPANESE RESIDENTS IN CANADA OF THEIR MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE ON PRETENCE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND SEND THEM TO INTERIOR SEVERING MEN FROM THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN AND PUT THEM TO HARD (6-55)

COMPULSORY LABOUR AND FORCE AGED PEOPLE AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO LIVE IN WILD DESOLATE PLACES APART FROM HEADS OF THEIR FAMILIES SUCH IS UNPRECEDENTED OUTRAGE OF HUMANITY IT IS ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL USAGE GENERALLY OBSERVED AMONG CIVILIZED NATIONS THAT ENEMY CIVILIANS SHOULD NOT BE PUT TO ANY COMPULSORY LABOUR OF ANY KIND IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES (7-49)

MOREOVER CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED AT OUTBREAK OF WAR THAT THEY WOULD APPLY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO INTERNED CIVILIANS PROVISIONS OF GENEVA CONVENTION RELATING TO TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR ABOVE MENTIONED MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ARE CONTRARY TO BOTH GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL USAGE AND DECLARATION (8-51)

OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MADE SIMILAR DECLARATION TO THAT OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WILL ON CONDITION OF RECIPROCITY ADHERE TO PROVISIONS OF GENEVA CONVENTION IT IS TO BE MENTIONED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT IMPOSED ON ANY CANADIANS WHETHER INTERNED OR NOT ANY COMPULSORY LABOUR OF ANY KIND JAPANESE (9-57)

GOVERNMENT THEREFORE LODGE MOST EMPHATIC PROTEST AGAINST INHUMAN MEASURES TAKEN BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO JAPANESE RESIDENTS CANADA AND DEMAND CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY TO CEASE ENDORSEMENT OF COMPULSORY

C.D. 1X

CANADIAN PACIFIC
TELEGRAPHS
World Wide Communications

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

3RD BOOK ..MONTREAL QUE OCT 20...ROBERTSON.UNDER-SECY

LABOUR IMPOSED ON JAPANESE EVACUES JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ALSO DEMAND FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPORT ON MEASURE OF PROTECTION ACCORDED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO JAPANESE EVACUES SUCH AS TO PROTECT (10-62) PROPERTY LEFT BEHIND BY THEM ALLOW THEM TO MAKE USE OF IT SUPPLY THEM WITH ADEQUATE HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AND PROPER MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE AT PLACES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN CONVEYED RELIEVE THE AGED AND THE POOR WHO HAVE BEEN SEVERED FROM HEADS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND TO FURNISH THEM WITH MEANS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT AND EDUCATION STOP

PEDRO E SCHWARTZ,SPANISH CONSUL GENERAL ,IN CHARGE OF JAPANESE INTERESTS

125P