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Consuls - France at Sydney Activities of Consul-General (J. Tremoulet) Pt.II

HEADING
Consuls

127

No. Consuls

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

[Part 2]
S.H.
CAO 23/1/74

War Records

Subject: Consuls France at Sydney
Activities of Consul-General
(J Tremoulet)

Part II

571.

"It is not true, as has been stated, that Mr Tremoulet is under police supervision." Sir T added.

27/2/41

Secretary
Issued today
RR
27/2/41

WAW.MS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.,
23rd April, 1942.

My dear Antrobus,

I thank you for your letter of 17th April enclosing copy of reply received by you from London about Trémoulet's money.

In all the circumstances we are now disposed to raise no objection to the payment of the money for the purpose mentioned, i.e., the maintenance of an Australian lady.

The procedure suggested by you is acceptable to us.

Yours sincerely,

W

M.E. Antrobus, Esq.,
Official Secretary,
Office of the United Kingdom
High Commissioner,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

above and after due with see

Consuls Trace Sydney Activities of Tremoulet,

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CANBERRA.

Ref. 1/118

17th April, 1942

PERSONAL

My dear Wynes,

With reference to our conversation I enclose a copy of the reply we have received from London about Tremoulet's money. I sent you a copy of our telegram on the 28th February.

We should be grateful for the views of your department in this matter.

On the face of it it rather looks as if there could be no objection to this money being devoted to the maintenance of an Australian lady. Our normal procedure in a case of this sort would be to ask the High Commissioner at Pretoria to pay the equivalent of the Australian currency to the lady; the amount would appear as a credit in our account with the Dominions Office and a debit in his and no money would leave Australia. We could propose this to the Dominions Office if you saw no objection.

Yours sincerely,

M E Nicholls

W. A. Wynes, Esq. LL.D.

22/4
W

TELEGRAM

T.

From: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS.

To: THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANBERRA.

Despatched: 15th April, 1942 (7.42 p.m.)

Received: 16th April, 1942 (1.13 p.m.)

No. 449.

Your telegram of 28th February No. 195.

H.M. Consul-General at Lisbon reports that Miss Powell arrived in Portugal from the United States with intention of marrying Tremoulet but the engagement was broken off with apparent mutual consent. She got into financial difficulties and asked for help to return to sterling area or United States. H.M. Consul-General does not think that money is likely to reach Tremoulet's hands if transferred to Miss Powell in South Africa.

We therefore see no objection to transfer but suggest that you consult Australian Exchange Control and be guided by their views.

Secretary of State
for Dominion Affairs.

Activities of Tremoulet

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
EN AUSTRALIE

Sydney, le 18th March, 1942

N° 21

Colonel W.R.Hodgson,
Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th March by which you informed me that instructions have been given for the return by the Deputy Crown Solicitor to the Prothonotary of the parcel, object of my letter n° 19 of the 7th March.

Although I do not quite see how investigations in relation to the parcel necessitated its actual possession by the Crown Solicitor, I am glad of the satisfactory solution of the happening.

Yours faithfully,

C. Lancial

Acting Consul General for France.

Activities of Tremoulet

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SECRET

CABLEGRAM.

FILE COPY

1105/ JEB

DECYPHER FROM:

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE,
NOUMEA.

Date Sent: 11/3/42-9.40a.m.

Date Received: 11/3/42

No. 88:

Your tel. No. 85 PUAUX states parcel contains Consular duty stamps and register.

Ballard

Copy to: Security Service. 12/3/42

WAW.AJS.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.,
12th March, 1942.

Sir,

I have the honour, by direction, to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 19 dated 7th March, 1942, concerning a certain sealed parcel, the subject of legal proceedings by the French State through its Consulate-General.

In reply thereto I am to inform you that instructions have been given for the return of the parcel by the Deputy Crown Solicitor to the Prothonotary.

I am to add that the parcel was detained only pending the making of certain investigations which have now been completed. As will be seen from the state of the parcel, no inspection whatever of its contents has been made.

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

WRH

Secretary.

The Consul in Charge of the
French Consulate-General,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

To Sydney 12/3

16
W/3

Consulo France at Sydney activities of Fremoulet

EPHONE
ERRA 631.

TE HIC ADDRESS—
COMATTGEN, CANBERRA.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,

G.

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 12th March, 1942.

IN REPLY, PLEASE QUOTE No.

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Referring to the letter received by you from the French Consul General relative to the detention of the parcel which was recently obtained by the Deputy Crown Solicitor, Sydney, under the authority of regulation 71 of the National Security (General) Regulations, I desire to inform you that instructions have now been given for the return of the parcel.

It is suggested that the Consul General be informed that the parcel was detained pending the making of certain investigations which have now been completed. It might also be pointed out that, as will be seen from the state of the parcel, no inspection whatever of its contents has been made.

Geo. Knowles.
Secretary.

urgent
Dr Wyne

Consulate France Sydney Acting Head of Delegation

FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

823.

JP.

ENCYPHERED TO:- OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE, NOUMEA.

No. 90 Sent:- 10/3/42.

IMMEDIATE. S E C R E T

My 85. Security pressing for early reply. Can you expedite?

Copy to:-
Security Service.
11/3/42.

DRAFT TELEGRAM TO: OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE, NOUMEA.

Date:

No.

Immediate Cipher My 85. Security pressing for early reply.

Can you expedite?

Arranged for J.K.

16
~~12~~
3
w

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA, 9th March, 1942

The Secretary,
Dept. of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Referred, by direction, for early attention please.

M Leachose

(Asst. Private Secretary)

Rec'd by post 12 noon 10/3/42

my ~~Security pressing matter~~ Security pressing
for early ref. Can you expedite?

Consulat France Dt Melb. activities of Lancial

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
EN AUSTRALIE

Sydney, le 7th March 1942

N° 19

URGENT

Copy

The Hon. Dr. H.V.Evatt,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Sir,

Early in February 1941, M. Puaux, then Vice-Consul, on leaving the French Consulate General removed the key of the safe and various papers, which he deposited, in a sealed parcel, with the Bank of New South Wales.

The French State, through its Consulate General, instituted proceedings before the local Courts for the return of the parcel.

About three months ago, the Court considering that neither the Plaintiff nor the Defendant were domiciled in the State of New South Wales, ordered that they should both deposit with the Court a certain sum of money as security for the costs.

The French State deposited the money. Mr. Puaux did not. In consequence, on the 25th February the Court made an order, to which the defendant's solicitor consented, that the parcel should be delivered to the Franch State. Arrangements for the actual remittance of the parcel were being made between the Prothonotary and the Consulate General's solicitors, Messrs. Freehill, Hollingdale & Co., when yesterday the latter were informed by the Prothonotary that the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor had made application that same day under the National Security Regulations for the delivery of the parcel in question to the Attorney General.

Mr. Hollingdale called on the Crown Solicitor who gave no specific reason for the action taken other than that the Commonwealth has power under the Regulations to take such action. Our Solicitor mentioned that if it was proposed to open the parcel I should be present, but he could not obtain any assurance on that point. The Crown Solicitor said he was awaiting instructions from the Attorney General.

There is no doubt that the parcel contains beside the key of the safe, papers belonging to the archives of the Consulate General. A check made after the departure of M. Puaux revealed the disappearance of certain documents and among the pleas put forward by M. Puaux at the beginning of the proceedings, there was none claiming that the parcel contained private papers belonging to him. Moreover, in February 1941, Mr. Rosenblum, M. Puaux's solicitor, while denying that he had received any keys or documents from his client, stated that he could obtain possession of same in exchange for his client's salary as claimed by him, which obviously shows that the contents of the parcel were the property of the French Consulate General, i.e. of the French State.

I enter therefore the strongest protest against the action taken by the Attorney General. It constitutes a violation of the principl

universally recognized of the inviolability of Consular archives. If the jurists of international law do not always agree on the extent of Consular immunities, they are at least unanimous on the principle of the inviolability of the archives.

M. Puaux could, through a breach of professional duty, take away from the Consulate General's premises those parts of the archives; they remain, however, parts of them, and should be treated as required by international law.

Consequently I request that the parcel, with the seals unbroken, shall be remitted to me by the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor. I trust that you will kindly give the matter your early attention as the Commonwealth Government cannot desire to create a precedent which might not be unilaterally regrettable.

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

C. Lancial

C. Lancial
Acting Consul General for France.

SYDNEY.

26th February, 1941.

My dear Acting Prime Minister,

I attach, for favour of your kind attention, a memorandum and draft letter relating to the internment of M. Tremoulet, Consul General of France.

Yours sincerely,

Minister for External Affairs.

The Hon. A. Fadden, M.P.,
Acting Prime Minister,
Commonwealth Offices,
SYDNEY.

Consulate France of Sydney — Fremoulet

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

FILE COPY

CABLEGRAM.

806
AJS

SECRET

ENCYPHERED TO:
OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE,
NOUMEA.

No. 85 Sent: 7/3/42.

At request of Commonwealth Security Service shall be glad if you will ascertain confidentially from Puaux nature and contents of sealed parcel which was the subject of recent litigation in Sydney with French State and whether there is in the parcel anything likely to be inimical to safety of Commonwealth or prosecution of our common struggle.

Copy to Security Service 9/3/42.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

CANBERRA.

Ref: 1/118 28th February, 1942.

Dear Wynes,

--- I enclose a copy of the telegram we have sent about Tremoulet's money. It might be well if you could give us any information about Miss Cynthia Powell.

Yours sincerely,

M.E. Nicholls

W. A. Wynes, Esq., LL.D.

RYB
NCN

W. A. WYNES, ESQ., LL.D.

Consul France Sydney Activities of Tremoulet.

Recc

TELEGRAM

From: THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANBERRA.

To: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS.

Despatched: 27th February, 1942 (12.00 noon)

No. 195

SECRET

I recently received communication from the Consul in charge of the French Consulate General stating that through French Legation in Lisbon Tremoulet, former Consul General in Australia had asked him to place at my disposal £200 from latter's private funds left with him. Consul enclosed cheque for £200 and said that I should be informed of destination of this money.

I have now received request from His Majesty's Consul General at Lisbon to transfer money to Standard Bank of South Africa, Durban, for Cynthia Powell, Australian citizen in Portugal, now proceeding to South Africa.

I understand that Commonwealth authorities did not permit Tremoulet to take with him his Australian funds when he left and that they would probably not permit consul to remit this amount if he applied for permission.

It looks as if Tremoulet is attempting to use me to get money out of the country which he cannot get out in any other way.

In the circumstances I propose to return the money to Consul explaining what I have been asked to do and saying that I regret that I cannot transfer the money to South Africa as desired. Before doing so should be glad to learn whether you or His Majesty's Consul General, Lisbon have any observations.

I understand that Powell left Australia in Tremoulet's company.

High Commissioner.

Seen by W.A.H. 3/3/42

WAW.AJS

Secret.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.,

2nd February, 1942.

Dear Antrobus,

With reference to your letters of 23rd and 27th January regarding Tremoulet, the position is that when Tremoulet left Australia he was permitted to pre-pay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds and in addition thereto to take with him his United States dollars and French francs of which he had credits at the French Bank at Sydney. The balance of his Australian funds were to be left in Australia.

It seems to us that the sending of the cheque for £200 to you is an attempt by Tremoulet to get this amount out of Australia, and, in view of the decision above referred to, the request should be refused.

After discussion with WRH.

Yours sincerely,

W.a.W.

M.E. Antrobus, Esq.,
Official Secretary to
the High Commissioner for the
United Kingdom,
CANBERRA.

7

Consul General Sydney
Acknowledge c/o Tremoulet

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CANBERRA.

Ref. 1/118

27th January, 1942.

SECRET.

Dear Wynes,

With reference to my letter of the 23rd January regarding money which we have received from M. Tremoulet we have to-day received a telegram from H.M. Consul General at Lisbon in which he states that he understands that Tremoulet is placing £200 at our disposal for Cynthia Powell, Australian citizen, now in Portugal. H.M. Consul General asks us to hold this money pending further information and this we are doing.

Yours sincerely,

M.E. Nicholls

Author has in holding cheque - no action without consultation with us. 29/1

W. A. Wynes, Esq., LL.D.

29/1

Consul France Sydney
Activities of Tremoulet

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CANBERRA.

Ref:1/118. 23rd January, 1942.

S E C R E T.

Dear Wynes,

With reference to previous correspondence which you had with Sedgwick about the French Consulate-General in Sydney (your letter of the 19th August, 1941), I enclose a copy of correspondence with M. Lancial.

The correspondence suggests that some question arose as to M. Trémoulet taking a substantial sum out of Australia with him when he left but does not indicate how this question was solved. It may be that the sending to us of this cheque is an attempt to get money out of Australia. We shall proceed with caution but in the meantime should be interested to have any further information you can give us as to M. Trémoulet's money.

Yours sincerely,

M.E. Nicholls

Thanks?

W. A. Wynes Esq., LL.D.

30/1

See Consul France Sydney General

W

COPY.

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE

EN AUSTRALIE

Sydney,
21st January, 1942

No. 8.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Ronald Cross, Bt., M.P.,
High Commissioner for the United Kingdom
in the Commonwealth of Australia,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Sir,

Through the French Legation in Lisbon, M. J. Tremoulet, former Consul General for France in Australia, has asked me to place at your disposal the sum of £200.0.0 from the private funds he left with me.

The cable adds that you will be informed of the destination of this sum of money.

--- I have the honour, therefore, to enclose herewith a Bank Draft to your order for the said amount.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) C. Lancial.

Acting Consul General for France.

COPY.

Ref: 1/118.

23rd January, 1942.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st January together with the Bank Draft for £200 enclosed therewith.

I shall await a further communication as to the destination of this sum of money.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

High Commissioner.

The Consul in charge of the
French Consulate General,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

1M Bks.—A.H.M.—8/41

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

A.A. Form A.57.

Receipt for SECRET Documents.

Issued to CLO Dept of External Affairs *Date* 29/1/1942

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Copy No. ~~[illegible]~~ of Secret Document 6/2979 vol. 1

(Signed) .....

Date ..... *(Appointment)* .....

NOTES.

1. THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THIS FORM.
2. The ~~officer responsible for the~~ safe custody of the document will sign the receipt.
3. THE RECIPIENT OF THE SECRET DOCUMENT MENTIONED ABOVE WILL ACCOUNT FOR IT ANNUALLY ON THE RETURN OF SECRET DOCUMENTS. ~~(STRIKE OUT THIS NOTE IF NOT APPLICABLE.)~~
4. This Document ~~supersedes~~ ....., copies of which will be destroyed by fire and a certificate of destruction rendered to the address shown below.

(To be completed and original returned IMMEDIATELY in a single unregistered envelope.)

To Visit Parcels Melb. DC1

(Headquarters Issuing Document.)

Navy

Mr. P. W. Ettelson.

Navy is considering the matter mentioned

PWE/EC

Consul General Sydney
Returned to
Thereafter

SECRET

TELEPHONES:
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. C/L 979

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

23rd January, 1942

C.L.O.
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

---- I attach for your Department's information copy of a decypher of a telegram from Gentil, Lisbon to the French Consul General at Sydney.

P.W. Ecterson
Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

C.

30/1

INWARD TELEGRAM.

SECRET

From: GENTIL, LISBON.
To: FRENCH CONSUL, SYDNEY.
Dated: 17/1/42.
Deciphered: 19/1/42.

Translation:

MONSIEUR TREMOULET REQUESTS YOU TO TAKE FROM HIS PERSONAL ACCOUNT £200 AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO ITS DISPOSAL. PLEASE ADVISE ME BY TELEGRAM OF THE EXECUTION OF THIS INSTRUCTION.

file. Return to Attorney-Genl.

WAW/MA.

A.C.T., 19th August, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to :

The Secretary,
Attorney-General's Department.

THE FRENCH STATE v. FRANK PUAUX.

With reference to your memorandum W.4002 of 15th August, 1941, forwarding the file of papers in this matter, I desire to inform you that this Department was aware of the dispute between M. Tremoulet, former Consul-General of France at Sydney, and M. Puaux, former Vice-Consul of France.

M. Tremoulet's exequatur was withdrawn by His Majesty at the instance of the Commonwealth Government in December, 1940, and Tremoulet left the Commonwealth early in February, 1941. Both before and after the withdrawal of his exequatur, Tremoulet made several requests to this Department that the Commonwealth Government should intervene in connection with the parcel left with the Bank by M. Puaux, but the view was taken that the whole matter was one of a domestic dispute and M. Tremoulet was informed that the Commonwealth Government would not intervene. He was told that if he and M. Puaux were unable to settle the matter, the only course open to him was to seek redress in the ordinary way before the Courts.

So far as the existence of the "French State" is concerned, the Commonwealth Government still recognises the existence of this body in as much as the Consul, M. Lancial, at Sydney is still recognised.

I am unaware of any grounds of policy upon which the Commonwealth should intervene in this case.

I return file of papers herewith.

WRH
Secretary.

TELEPHONE
CANBERRA 531.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS—
COMMATGEN, CANBERRA.

PK.

YOUR NO.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE { W.4002

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 15th August, 1941.

REC'D
20 AUG 1941
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

THE FRENCH STATE v. FRANK PUAUX.

... I enclose, for your perusal, the file of papers relating to the above matter, forwarded to me by the Department of Defence Co-ordination. You will observe that the question has been raised whether the Commonwealth wishes to intervene in the proceedings in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Before replying to the Department of Defence Co-ordination, I should be glad to know your views on the matter.

Please return the enclosed papers with your reply.

L. J. R. Thornton
for Secretary.

Canada France - Sydney Tremoulet.

WAW.MS

for setting file Tremoulet

No.25/41.

SYDNEY, N.S.W.,
30th April, 1941.

My dear Minister,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter (Personal and Confidential No.9/41) of 1st April, 1941, reporting your informal interview with the French Ambassador during which the latter handed you a written protest concerning the arrest in Australia of M. Trémoulet.

In amplification of my telegrams 430 and 438, I am enclosing copies of the correspondence between myself and M.Lancial on this matter.

While I feel that it was unfortunate that M. Trémoulet was arrested practically on the eve of his departure from Australia, I can add little to what I have already conveyed to M.Lancial in my correspondence with him. The Commonwealth Government does not propose to make any apology and I think that in all the circumstances the best course would be to reply on the lines already taken by me.

Accordingly I enclose a draft of a reply which might be handed to the French Ambassador. You will observe that the only additional matter contained in the draft is that after the withdrawal of his exequatur in December, 1940, M. Trémoulet continued in fact to conduct the affairs of the Consulate General until February. This fact caused considerable embarrassment and difficulty to the Commonwealth Government which received representations from various sources, both private and official, for his removal from the country.

Yours sincerely,

R.G.

The Right Hon. R.G. Casey, D.S.O., M.C.,
H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Australian Legation,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

7 ~~5~~ 8

DRAFT REPLY BY HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTER AT WASHINGTON TO NOTE OF PROTEST OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

With reference to the French Ambassador's note of protest dated 31st March 1941 concerning the detention of M. Trémoulet, former Consul-General of France in Sydney, His Majesty's Australian Minister has been instructed by his Government to inform M. Henry-Haye that consideration has been given to the representations made on behalf of the French Government.

The Commonwealth Government can add little to the reply which has already been given to the French Consul at Melbourne in reply to representations made by him in the matter in February last. The Commonwealth Government, for its part, can only repeat that it was fully justified in the action it took in the broad national interest, quite apart from other grounds. M. Trémoulet's continued presence in Australia long after the withdrawal of his exequatur was not only causing considerable embarrassment but also resulting in dissension in the community at a time when unity for the prosecution of the war effort was an over-riding consideration. In this connection the Commonwealth Government would observe that despite the withdrawal of his exequatur in December 1940 M. Trémoulet continued, in fact, to conduct the affairs of the Consulate-General until his departure from the country.

In all the circumstances and in view of the substantial doubt which had arisen as to whether M. Trémoulet intended to leave Australia, it was decided that he should be detained until he could leave the country. Upon receiving satisfactory assurances regarding M. Trémoulet's departure from the French Consul the Commonwealth Government immediately released M. Trémoulet.

While noting that the French Government is not desirous of opening legal discussion upon the extent of personal immunities of consuls, the Commonwealth Government, for its part, reiterates that concessions and privileges granted to consuls in Australia are granted on a basis of reciprocity and purely as a matter of courtesy. The French Government will appreciate that such concessions and privileges are not founded on the well-established principles of international law pertaining to the diplomatic sphere. In any event, after the withdrawal of his exequatur M. Trémoulet could not be regarded as having any official status in relation to the Commonwealth Government.

The Commonwealth Government has already expressed its regret at the action which, unfortunately, it was forced to take, and can only reiterate the hope that the traditional friendly relations between France and Australia will remain unaffected by this incident.

Mr. Richard Casey takes this opportunity of assuring M. Henry-Haye of his highest consideration.

NO. 9/41

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AIRMAIL:

April 1st, 1941

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Minister,

With reference to your telegrams Numbers 430 and 438 concerning M. Trémoulet, I have the honour to inform you that I had an informal interview with the French Ambassador this morning, during which he handed me a written protest concerning the arrest in Australia of M. Trémoulet. Copy of the protest is enclosed herewith.

I did not discuss the substance of the protest with the Ambassador, but informed him that I would have enquiries made into the matter.

It will be noted that the Vichy Government demands an explanation of the circumstances, and states that until a satisfactory reply is received the French Government cannot nominate anyone to the post of Consul General at Sydney. Although I assume that, in existing circumstances, the Commonwealth Government would prefer not to have such a nomination made, I should be glad to receive advice by telegraph or airmail as to whether any reply to the protest should be sent.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

R G Casey

The Honourable
Sir Frederick H. Stewart, M.P.,
Minister for External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.,
Australia.

31 mars 1941.

En raison des difficultés actuelles de communication directe, l'Ambassadeur de France a été chargé par son Gouvernement d'attirer l'attention très sérieuse du Très Honorable Richard Casey, Ministre d'Australie aux Etats-Unis, sur les conditions dans lesquelles le Consul-Général de France à Sydney, sur le point de quitter son poste, a été arrêté à son domicile par les autorités militaires du Commonwealth. Ce grave incident s'est produit dans la nuit du 22 février dernier, et M. Trémoulet a été conduit dans un camp de concentration où se trouvaient des ressortissants allemands et italiens.

A la suite de l'intervention du Consul de France à Melbourne auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, M. Trémoulet a été libéré, le 24 février, et il a depuis lors, quitté l'Australie. Le Gouvernement australien a fait démentir une information parue dans la presse locale, d'après laquelle le Consul

....

Le Très Honorable Richard Casey,
Ministre d'Australie,
3117 Woodland Drive,
Washington,
D.C.

JD/YF

Général de France à Sydney avait été placé sous la surveillance de la police.

A cela se sont malheureusement bornées les satisfactions officielles données pour le traitement injustifié dont un représentant du Gouvernement français a été ainsi l'objet en Australie. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, en effet, n'a pas présenté d'excuse dans sa réponse à la note de protestation que lui avait remise le Consul de France à Melbourne. Il a déclaré que le Consul-Général, dont la présence à Sydney constituait un élément de dissension nuisible à la poursuite de la guerre, ne pouvait être considéré, après le retrait de son exequatur, comme ayant gardé un caractère officiel. Au surplus, était-il précisé dans ce document, le Gouvernement australien, en l'absence de convention ou arrangement international entre pays intéressés, ne reconnaît pas aux Consuls, même en possession de leur exequatur, une immunité personnelle analogue à celle dont bénéficient les représentants diplomatiques.

Sans vouloir ouvrir une discussion juridique sur ce point, le Gouvernement français déclare qu'il a été péniblement surpris des conditions blessantes et contraires aux usages de courtoisie internationale dans lesquelles s'est effectué à Sydney le départ de son Consul-Général en cette ville. En priant son Ambassadeur

. ...

à Washington de transmettre au Gouvernement australien, par l'entremise du Ministre d'Australie aux Etats-Unis, une protestation énergique contre le traitement infligé à M. Trémoulet, il a l'honneur de demander une explication des mesures qui ont ainsi été prises à l'encontre de cet agent. Aussi longtemps que des éclaircissements n'auront pas été fournis par le Gouvernement du Commonwealth, le Gouvernement français estime qu'il ne pourra désigner un nouveau titulaire au poste de Consul-Général à Sydney.

En faisant part de ce qui précède au Très Honorable Richard Casey, M. Henry-Haye a l'honneur de lui demander de bien vouloir informer son Gouvernement du caractère sérieux que le Gouvernement français attache aux mesures qui ont été ainsi prises par les autorités du Commonwealth envers son représentant consulaire à Sydney. Il espère que des explications complètes seront données à bref délai par le Gouvernement australien afin que les relations traditionnellement amicales entre les deux pays n'en demeurent pas affectées./.

M. Henry-Haye est heureux de saisir cette occasion pour assurer le Très Honorable Richard Casey de sa haute considération.

Translation : LMM
JQ

Note of Protest Handed by the French Ambassador, Washington, to the Australian Minister

In view of the difficulties at present in the way of direct communication, the French Ambassador has been instructed by his Government to draw the attention of the Right Hon. Richard Casey, Australian Minister in the United States, to the circumstances in which the Consul-General of France at Sydney, when on the point of relinquishing his post, was arrested at his residence by the Commonwealth military authorities . This grave incident took place on the night of 22nd February last, and M. Trémoulet was taken to a concentration camp in which were German and Italian subjects .

As a result of representations made by the Consul of France at Melbourne to the Minister for External Affairs, M. Trémoulet was liberated on the 24th February, and he has since left Australia . The Australian Government issued a denial of a report appearing in the local press, according to which the Consul-General of France at Sydney had been placed under police supervision .

Unhappily, official redress for the unwarranted treatment to which a representative of the French Government has been subjected in Australia, has gone no further than this . The Minister for External Affairs has in effect offered no apology in reply to the note of protest transmitted to him by the Consul of France at Melbourne . He declared that the Consul-General, whose presence in Sydney constituted a discordant element detrimental to the prosecution of the war, could not be considered as retaining any official status after the withdrawal of his exequatur .

Moreover, it was specifically stated in this document that in the absence of a convention or international agreement among the countries concerned, the Australian Government does not allow to Consuls, even when they are in possession of their exequatur, a personal immunity analogous to that enjoyed by diplomatic representatives .

Without wishing to open a legal discussion on this point, the French Government declares that it has been painfully surprised at the circumstances in which the departure of the Consul-General at Sydney was effected - circumstances which were both offensive and contrary to the usages of international courtesy . The French Government, in requesting its Ambassador in Washington to transmit to the Australian Government, through the Australian Minister in the United States, a strong protest against the treatment meted out to M. Trémoulet, has the honour to ask for an explanation of the measures taken against this official representative . Until such time as explanations have been furnished by the Commonwealth Government, the French Government considers that it will be unable to nominate a new occupant of the post of Consul-General at Sydney .

In apprising the Right Hon. Richard Casey of the above, M. Henry-Haye has the honour to request him to be so good as to inform his Government of the seriousness with which the French Government regards the measures taken by the Commonwealth authorities against its Consular representative at Sydney . The French Government hopes that a full explanation will be given by the Australian Government as soon as possible, so that the traditional friendly relations between the two countries may not remain impaired .

M. Henry-Haye is pleased to take this opportunity of assuring the Right Hon. Richard Casey of his highest consideration .

WAW.GP

CANBERRA A.C.T.
1st April 1941.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 10 of 7th March 1941 regarding the departure of M. Tremoulet from Sydney on that day, I have the honour to inform you that I am advised that your statement that Mr. Tremoulet was followed up the gang-way by a member of the Military Police and a Policeman both in uniform is incorrect, and that in fact no uniformed person followed M. Tremoulet, the only uniformed personnel in the vicinity of M. Tremoulet being the Passports Guard which was on the wharf.

It would thus appear that some misapprehension has occurred regarding this matter.

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

75

Minister for External Affairs.

The Consul in Charge,
Consulate-General of France,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

Copy sent to Def Board
17/4/41

Consulo France - Sydney Tremaulet

PWE/EC

1/9/17

SECRET

SECRET

- 1 APR 1941

TELEPHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

No. C/H 5959

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

31st March, 1941.

C.L.O. (External Affairs),
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

I attach for your information copy of telegram released on 28th M rch by the District Censor at Sydney.

P. W. Etheson
Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

R/S

SECRET

From: Gaucheron, San Francisco

To: French Consul, Sydney

Lodged: 26th March

Received: 28th March

Kind remembrances from M. Tremoulet who arrived 25th March to you and all his colleagues stop Please acknowledge receipt

Copy/BC

Convoy to France - Sydney Tremoulet.

FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. 532

TO AUSTRALIAN MINISTER, WASHINGTON.

Dated: 31/3/41.

No. 438.

My telegram 430, last paragraph. Military authorities advise Tremoulet was not followed up gang-way by uniformed officers and photograph proving this is held. Only uniformed personnel in vicinity was Passports Guard on the wharf.

DRAFT TELEGRAM TO AUSTRALIAN MINISTER, WASHINGTON.

Dated: 532

No. 438

My telegram 430, last paragraph. Military authorities advise Tremoulet was not followed up gang-way by uniformed officers and photograph proving this is held. Only uniformed personnel in vicinity was Passports Guard on the wharf. ~~For your own information two detectives in plain clothes followed Tremoulet up the gang-way.~~

WRM 31.3.41

Cyh Encyphered JG 31-3-1941.

(4 6)

DRAFT LETTER TO CONSUL IN CHARGE, FRENCH CONSULATE-GENERAL, SYDNEY.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 10 of 7th March, 1941, regarding the departure of M. Tremoulet from Sydney on that day, I have the honour to inform you that ~~the military authorities to whom your letter was referred have~~ I am advised ~~me~~ that your statement that M. Tremoulet was followed up the gang-way by a member of the Military Police and a Policeman both in uniform is incorrect, and that in fact no uniformed person followed M. Tremoulet, the only uniformed personnel in the vicinity of M. Tremoulet being the Passports Guard which was on the wharf.

It would thus appear that some misapprehension has occurred regarding this matter.

W Bramley

Wp for Def re T/P Mnge

Consul France - Sydney Tremoulet

31 MAR 1941

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

TELEPRINTER MESSAGE.

D.836 1221 FOR SECRETARY, DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
FROM ACTING SECRETARY, DEPT. OF DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION.
S E C R E T.

YOUR CS.406 - DEPARTURE OF TREMOULET FRO SM ++ FROM SYDNEY.
FOLLOWING ADVICE HAS BEEN FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY :-

''THE STATEMENT THAT TREMOULET WAS FOLLOWED UP THE GANGWAY BY AN OFFICER OF THE MILITARY POLICE AND A POLICEMAN BOTH IN UNIFORM IS INCORRECT. NO UNIFORMED PERSON FOLLOWED HIM. EASTERN COMMAND HAS A PHOTOGRAPH TO PROVE THIS.

THE ONLY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE VICINITY WAS THE PASSPORTS GUARD WHICH WAS ON THE WHARF.

DET./SG.++ DET./SGT. WILKES IN PLAIN CLOTHES AND ANOTHER PLAIN CLOTHESE DETECTIVE FOLLOWED TREMOULET UP THE GANGWAY.''

MESSAGE ENDS 1226 29/3/41

RECD OK

R/S
W

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

506

TO:

AUSTRALIAN MINISTER,
WASHINGTON.

Date: 27th March, 1941.

No. 430

For your information Tremoulet, ex-French Consul General, left Australia on 7th March for United States and Censorship discloses that French Ambassador at Washington is being instructed to lodge a formal protest with you regarding certain events. On Saturday, 22nd February, Tremoulet was arrested and taken to internment camp. Following Monday protest lodged with Minister for External Affairs who obtained Tremoulet's release same day. Consul in Melbourne protested that action of Commonwealth authorities in arresting Tremoulet was violation of principle of diplomatic and consular immunity and asked for apologies and reparation pointing out that his Government could not fail to take strong view of case, which was an offence to France and would lead to unfavourable influence of future relations between France and Australia. We replied that following on withdrawal of Tremoulet's Exequatur latter could not be regarded as having any official status in relation to Commonwealth Government. Secondly we pointed out that his representation was not diplomatic but consular and concessions and privileges granted to Consuls are on basis of reciprocity and not founded on well established principles which apply in diplomatic sphere. As regards actual facts of case, we stated that action was fully justified in the broad national interests irrespective of other grounds. Continued presence of Tremoulet was causing embarrassment and resulting in dissension in community at a time when unity was necessary. Grave doubts having arisen as to whether Tremoulet intended to leave Australia, it was decided he should be detained and upon satisfactory assurances being received that he would leave by next boat Commonwealth ordered his release.

For your own confidential information action taken against Tremoulet was taken by Military authorities without reference to or knowledge of this Department and precise reasons are still unknown to us.

Further protest was received from French Consul that when Tremoulet left he was followed up the gangway by member of Military Police and civil policemen both in uniform. Reply has not yet been sent to this protest which has been referred to Military authorities for their advice.

Consuls France - Sydney Tremoulet

FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

506

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Dated:

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Encyphered
2773-1041

(6 6)

A.A. Form A. 57
(Amended May, 1939)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Receipt for SECRET Documents.

Issued to C.M.O. Dept. of Ex. Off. *Date* 25. 3. 19 41

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Copy No. ——— of Secret Document C/H 5869 + attachment

(Signed) N

(Appointment)

Date 27/3

NOTES

1. THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THIS FORM.
2. The officer responsible for the safe custody of the document will sign the receipt.
3. THE RECIPIENT OF THE SECRET DOCUMENT MENTIONED ABOVE WILL ACCOUNT FOR IT ANNUALLY ON THE RETURN OF SECRET DOCUMENTS. (STRIKE OUT THIS NOTE IF NOT APPLICABLE).
4. This Document supersedes ....., copies of which will be destroyed by fire and a certificate of destruction rendered to the address shown below.

(To be completed and original returned immediately in a single unregistered envelope).

CONTROLLER OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP

To Victoria Barracks, Melb.

(Headquarters Issuing Document)

PWE/EC

1/9/17
SECRET

SECRET

TELEPHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

No. C/H 5869

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

25th March, 1941.

C.L.O. (External Affairs),
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

FRENCH CONSULATE

I attach for your information copy decode of telegram No.16 from Vichy to French Consul, Sydney in reply to advice concerning Mr. Tremoulet's detention.

P. W. Eckersley

Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

Sydney Day
Call Stewart Friday
June 16 Nightie
going by air
Nightie meet at aerodrome
MU 6766 Chaney Melb
Haw 2000
Legation
Consulate General

Translation

SECRET

From: Diplomatie, Vichy.

To: French Consul, Sydney

Received Sydney 21st March

Contents disclosed to Consul 22nd March

No.16

In reply to your telegrams Numbered 7 - 10.

I am directing the French Ambassador at Washington to lodge a formal protest with the Australian Minister to the United States.

Copy/BC

TELEPRINTER MESSAGE TO SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION, FROM SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

My memoranda 11th and 20th March regarding departure of Tremoulet from Sydney. Would be glad of advice as to nature of reply which should be sent to the French Consul on this matter.

27/3

31/3
W

Consuls France - Sydney Tremoulet

24 MAR 1941

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

THE ARMY
DEPARTMENT OF ~~XXXXXX~~

No. Sm 3129

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM for:-

20 MAR 1941

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jean TREMOULET.

The following information which has been received from Eastern Command regarding the future movements of M. TREMOULET is forwarded. The information is probably in your possession but is supplied in case it has not been received by you:-

" Departure s.s. "Mariposa" 7 Mar 41.
Arrive Los Angeles 24 Mar 41.
Arrive San Francisco 25 Mar 41.

In San Francisco to stay at "Hotel Francis" for approximately one week.

From San Francisco to Los Angeles where reservations have been made at the "Biltmore" approximately 1 Apr. 41.

From Los Angeles by 'plane to Mexico City, arriving approximately 10-14 Apr 41, where he will stay at the "Hotel Reforma" for about three weeks.

Thence he has made a tentative booking to fly via Brownsville to New Orleans and on to Washington, where he will stay at the "Mayflower".

In Washington a room has been reserved for his housekeeper, Mlle. Despeyroux, at the "Burlington" near the French Embassy and in New York at the "Waldorf Astoria".

Tremoulet anticipates receiving instructions in New York concerning his departure for Lisbon, for the purpose of conferring with the authorities at Vichy with regard to a future appointment."

(J. T. Fitzgerald).
Secretary.

for file - Tremoulet

WAW.MS

A.C.T., 20th March, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to -

The Secretary,
Department of Defence Co-ordination.

I refer to my memorandum of 11th March forwarding copy of a letter received by the Minister from the Consul in Charge of the French Consulate General in Australia regarding the departure of M.Tremoulet from Sydney.

As in all circumstances of this case M.Lancial's letter was not immediately acknowledged, I should be glad to receive your earliest advice as to the nature of the reply which should be sent to his communication.

Secretary.

~~31~~
~~27~~
~~26~~
3

WAW.GP

CANBERRA A.C.T.
12th March 1941.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your further letter, No. 5 of 3rd March 1941, regarding the case of M. Trémoulet.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F.S.

Minister for External Affairs.

Charles Lancial, Esq.,
Acting Consul-General of France,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

7

Trémoulet

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
EN AUSTRALIE

Sydney, le 7th March 1941

N° 10

12 MAR 1941

Sir Frederick Stewart,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA.A.C.T.

Sir,

M. Trémoulet left Sydney this morning by the s.s. "Mariposa". He went up the gangway followed by a member of the military police and a policeman, both in uniform. The Member of the military police had followed him step by step all the time he was on the wharf.

I raise a protest against this last and quite unnecessary indignity inflicted on M. Trémoulet, who, in spite of the withdrawal of his exequatur, remains as I have already pointed out, a Consul General of France, a high official of the French Government.

Coming after his arrest and transportation to an internment camp, for which no apologies have been expressed, this last action seems to show that the Australian authorities have been determined to take no account of the feelings of honour of the French nation.

In such conditions, I fail to see the purpose of the hope expressed in your letter of the 27th February, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government that "the traditional friendly relations between France and Australia will remain unaffected".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Ch. Lancial
Acting Consul General of France.

Copy to Defence Co-ord. for favour early advice

Copy to Defence Co-ord. (by direction for favour early adv.) 11/3/41.
~~21.3.41.~~

Secy

Tremoulet

GEORGE R.I.

(L.S.)

GEORGE THE SIXTH, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND THE BRITISH DOMINIONS BEYOND THE SEAS KING, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, EMPEROR OF INDIA, &C., &C., &C., TO ALL AND SINGULAR TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING'.

WHEREAS by the grant of Our Exequatur on the Sixteenth day of September One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-seven, We have recognised and approved of Monsieur Jean Gabriel Henry Marie Trémoulet, a citizen of the French Republic, as Consul-General of the French Republic at Sydney, for the Commonwealth of Australia

AND WHEREAS, for divers good causes and considerations Us thereunto moving, We have deemed it expedient no longer to recognise the said Jean Gabriel Henry Marie Trémoulet as Consul-General of the French Republic as aforesaid, and further to withdraw the Exequatur heretofore granted to him: NOW KNOW YE that we do hereby declare order and direct that the said Jean Gabriel Henry Marie Trémoulet shall henceforth no longer be recognised as Consul-General of the French Republic, or permitted to perform any duties or act in any respect as such Consul-General within Our dominions, and that We do hereby withdraw accordingly the Exequatur heretofore granted to him.

GIVEN at Our Court of Saint Jame's the Fifth day of December in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty and in the Fourth Year of Our Reign.

BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND,
CRANBORNE.

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
EN AUSTRALIE

Sydney, le 3rd March, 1941

N° 5

10 MAR 1941

Sir Frederick Stewart,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA.A.C.T.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th February.

I regret to see that no apology whatever is expressed in relation to the arrest of M. Trémoulet and the indignities to which he, a high official of the French Government, has been subjected - M. Trémoulet, moreover, is a disabled ex-soldier of the last war - . Your letter, on the contrary, states that the Commonwealth Government was fully justified in the action it took, that in its view it was necessary to take the action it did.

I shall leave those statements to the appreciation of the French Government.

As to the assertion that "grave doubts had arisen as to whether M. Trémoulet actually intended to leave Australia despite the arrangements made for his departure", I am afraid this assertion can be made only through disregarding some definite facts. The Commonwealth Government was aware of a telegram sent on the 21st February, the day before his arrest, by M. Trémoulet to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, advising it of his departure at the beginning of March. On the same day M. Trémoulet had a conversation by telephone with Dr. Wynes, of the Department of External Affairs in Canberra, in which he assured him of his

departure by the next American boat, adding that he was going to pay on the following Monday the passage moneys to the Matson Line. If the words of M. Trémoulet were put in doubt, it would have been easy for the Department of External Affairs to ascertain their accuracy by getting in touch with the shipping line. Moreover, if M. Trémoulet has not left Australia sooner, it must be remembered that he had to wait for instructions and that hindrances were put by the Commonwealth authorities in the way of his communicating with the French Government.

It is also stated that "it was decided that he (M. Trémoulet) should be detained until he could leave Australia". This statement does not fit quite well with the fact that, contrary to the promise made to him by Colonel Powell, M. Trémoulet was not taken on Monday from the camp to Sydney in order to pay his passage, thus exposing him to the risk of losing his reservations. This statement does not fit either with the intention expressed by the Military authorities to transfer M. Trémoulet to the Orange Internment camp, some 150 miles away from Sydney.

As regards the matter of consular immunity, I note the peculiar view held in this respect by the Commonwealth Government.

My representations to obtain suitable apologies having failed, further action rests with the French Government, which will judge whether the traditional friendly relations between Australia and France will remain unaffected by the present occurrence.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. Lancial.

Charles Lancial
Acting Consul General of France.

TRANSLATION

N° DIPLOMATIE VICHY

I sent you on the 24th February a telegram which was not forwarded. This telegram was informing you that M. Trémoulet had been arrested.

Here are the essential features of the incident : on Saturday 22nd during the night, M. Trémoulet was arrested at his residence, without any reason being given, by the Military authorities, and taken to an internment camp where are Italian and German subjects. Informed on Sunday by M. Clémentel, I came to Sydney on Monday and saw the Minister for External Affairs, with whom I lodged an emphatic protest, requesting the release of M. Trémoulet and suitable apologies. I represented that if it were sufficient for a Government to withdraw a Consul's exequatur to be justified in laying hands on him without warning, the principle of consular immunity has only an illusory value. Despite the withdrawal of the exequatur, M Trémoulet remained a Consul General of France and his arrest constituted an offence to our country. Such an action could not but influence in a most unfavourable manner the relations between France and Australia. The Minister stated he knew nothing of the affair and I must acknowledge that he worked actively to obtain the release which took place on the same evening.

On the same day, Monday, appeared in the three Sydney dailies a paragraph which, if it did not say that M. Trémoulet had been arrested, announced that he was under police supervision. I obtained from the Minister of External Affairs that he would issue a statement to the press, denying the latter point; this statement however was published only by one paper.

On the other hand, the authorities lifted the prohibition against the transfer of certain articles of furniture of M; Trémoulet.

This is all the satisfaction that has been given.

In his reply to my note of protest, the Minister of External Affairs expresses no apologies. On the contrary, he states that the Australian Government was fully justified in arresting M; Trémoulet for reasons of broad national interest; his continued presence in Australia constitu-

ted an element of dessension detrimental to the prosecution of the war. Moreover, in the absence of convention or reciprocal arrangement, the Commonwealth Government, recognises for ~~French~~ Consuls, even in possession of their exequatur, no personal immunity such as attaches to ~~the~~ diplomatic personages. Lastly, the Government expressed hope that traditional friendly relations between the two countries should not be affected.

I have answered that I leave those statements to your appreciation. My endeavours to obtain apologies having failed, further action remains with you.

Nothing justifies indignity inflicted on M. Trémoulet.

I should be obliged if you will acknowledge receipt of the present communication.

M. Trémoulet has left Australia , bound for the United States. He ascended the gangway followed by two police officers in uniform.

LANCIAL

sent agents with that letter

moreover in the absence of convention or reciprocal arrangement the Com Govt pointed out that

~~He points out that~~ ~~In view of~~ after withdrawal of his exequatur M Tremoulet could no longer be regarded as having any official status in relation to the Govt. ~~In any~~

DIPLOMATIE VICHY.

N° Je vous ai adressé 24 février un télégramme qui n'a pas été transmis. Ce télégramme vous faisait connaître que M. Trémoulet avait été arrêté.

Voici essentiel de l'incident : samedi 22 dans la nuit, M. Trémoulet fut arrêté à son domicile, sans raisons formulées, par autorité militaire et conduit dans camp concentration où se trouvent sujets italiens et allemands. Averti démarche par M. Clémentel, je me rendis Sydney et lundi, voyais Ministre Affaires Extérieures, auprès de qui je protestais vivement demandant mise en liberté et excuses appropriées. Je fis valoir que s'il suffisait à un Gouvernement de retirer à un Consul son exequatur pour être justifié à se saisir sans avertissement de sa personne, principe immunité consulaire n'avait plus que valeur illusoire. Malgré retrait exequatur M. Trémoulet demeurait un Consul Général de France et son arrestation constituait injure à notre pays; cet acte ne pouvait qu'influencer très défavorablement relations entre France et Australie. Le Ministre me déclara ignorer tout de l'affaire et je dois reconnaître qu'il s'employa activement pour obtenir libération qui eut lieu le soir même. Ce même jour, lundi, parurent dans les trois journaux de Sydney un entrefilet qui s'il ne disait pas que M. Trémoulet avait été arrêté annonçait qu'il était sous surveillance police. J'obtins du Ministre Affaires Extérieures qu'il fit déclaration à la presse démentant ce dernier point: cette déclaration toutefois ne fut publiée que par un seul journal.

D'autrepart, les autorités levèrent prohibition à sortie certains objets mobiliers de M. Trémoulet.

Là se bornent satisfactions données. Dans sa réponse à ma note de protestation, Ministre Affaires Extérieures n'exprime aucune excuse. Au contraire, il déclare Gouvernement australien était pleinement justifié à arrêter M. Trémoulet pour raisons large intéret national; continuation de sa présence en Australie constituait élément dissension nuisible à poursuite guerre; le Gouvernement

regrettait d'avoir eu à prendre cette mesure. En outre, en l'absence de conventions, Gouvernement australien ne reconnait aux Consuls français, en possession même de leur exequatur, aucune
300 immunité personnelle. Enfin Gouvernement exprimait espoir que relations traditionnellement amicales entre les deux pays ne seraient pas affectées.

J'ai répondu que je vous laissais soin d'apprécier ces déclarations; mes efforts pour obtenir excuses ayant échoué, action ultérieure vous appartenait.

Rien ne justifie traitement indigne infligé M. Trémoulet.

Je vous serais reconnaissant m'accuser réception de présente communication.

M. Trémoulet a quitté l'Australie, direction Etats Unis. Il a monté la passerelle suivi de deux policiers en uniforme.

LANCIAL

DRAFT LETTER TO M. LANCIAL.

Sir,

With reference to your conversation with me today in which you enquired whether I would be prepared to authorise the release of a telegram from yourself to your Government regarding M. Trémoulet, I have the honour to inform you that questions relating to the release of overseas telegrams are, as you are no doubt aware, primarily a matter for the Censorship and that it would not be appropriate for me to grant any such authority.

So far as the particular telegram in question is concerned, I would suggest that you lodge it in the ordinary way for transmission. The question of its release or otherwise would then be considered by the Censorship authorities. If those authorities should decide to refer the matter to me or to my Department I can assure you that your representations will receive full consideration, but you will appreciate that for the reasons already mentioned, the decision is primarily one for those authorities.

I have the honour

etc.

Telephoned by Day 7/3

DRAFT LETTER TO M. LANCIAL.

Sir,

With reference to your conversation with me today in which you enquired whether I would be prepared to au thorise the release of a telegram from yourself to your Government regarding M. Trémoulet, I have the honour to inform you that questions relating to the release of overseas telegrams are, as you are no doubt aware, primarily a matter for the Censorship ~~Authorities~~, and that it would not be appropriate for me to grant any such authority.

So far as the particular telegram in question is concerned, I would suggest that you lodge it in the ordinary way for transmission. The question of its release or otherwise would then be considered by the Censorship Authorities. (A) ~~I can assure you, however, that no action will be taken by~~ me regarding the telegram unless the Censorship Authorities should decide to refer the matter to me or to my Department along with an expression of their views. In such a case every consideration will be given to the representations which you have made, but you ~~will appreciate that,~~ for the reasons mentioned, the decision is primarily one for those authorities. ~~in the first instance~~.

Telephoned to Rowe 7/3/41

I have the honour,

etc.

(A) If those authorities should decide to refer the matter to me or to my Dept. ~~I can~~ I can assure you that your representations will receive full consideration, but you will appreciate that for the reasons already x

Mon 4.30 p.m.
Thurs 4.30 p.m.

Journal to VICHY

I sent on 20 Feb. a tel. arrested
Cs last 22 night arrested at residence sans
any reason – int. camp with ser Italians.
Clementel – dyd monday – protest
If staff withdraw & lay leads
illusory value
a congeal still
influence unfriendly. hm nil
connected actively. monday
a parm ladies tomm he was
under police supervision –
only 1 paper published.
lifted protm against transfer
of certain articles. All
the sales factors – No
apologies. States
fully justified
broad ints. det to
war proceen.
C/w pot & consuls
no fers immunity
not be affected.
Thus I leave to you.
no apologies.
no justify indignity
please ask.
Left for USA police
in uniform

Mr Clark

Bookseller

Nat. Library

Sir

I have

Reqd on C/ship.
outside its jurisdiction
Render assistance
possibly re courtesy.

(1) Millwood
(2) Fletcher

1. Bob Moodie

2. Please ring Mr Millwood

Millwood

Thanks

{ Arkyana
~~Ina~~ Hatton.
Negrinha. }

DRAFT LETTER TO CONSUL=IN-CHARGE, FRENCH CONSULATE-GENERAL,
SYDNEY.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your further letter No. 5 of 3rd March, 1941, regarding the case of M. Trémoulet. ~~I am to inform you that~~

In reply thereto, I do not desire to add anything to my letter of 27th February on the question.

I have, etc.,

The contents thereof have been noted.

Yours etc

Your further comments on this matter have been noted but I do not think that any good purpose would be served by in traversing the ar

Tremoulet

SYDNEY.
7th March, 1941.

Sir,

With reference to your conversation with me today, in which you enquired whether I would be prepared to authorise the release of a telegram from yourself to your Government regarding M. Tremoulet, I have the honour to inform you that questions relating to the release of overseas telegrams are, as you are no doubt aware, primarily matters for the Censorship Authorities, and that it would not be appropriate for me to grant any such authority.

So far as the particular telegram in question is concerned, I would suggest that you lodge it in the ordinary way for transmission. The question of its release or otherwise would then be considered by the Censorship Authorities. If those authorities should decide to refer the matter to me or to my Department, I can assure you that your representations will receive full consideration, but you will appreciate that, for the reasons already mentioned, the decision is primarily one for the Censorship Authorities.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Minister for External
Affairs.

Charles Lancial, Esq.,
Acting Consul-General of France,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

Urgent
W.A.W.

Secretary
AA 7/3/41

TELEPHONES—
F. 0444 (12 Lines)

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No.....

H.M.A. NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS,

SYDNEY, 3rd March, 1941.

SECRET

Dear Colonel Hodgson,

I understand that your Department has been closely consulted with regard to recent action with M. Tremoulet. It is possible, though, that the attached Censorship reports have not come your way. They are actually of earlier date than the information I passed to you on Friday last, but I got that away myself in rather a hurry.

You will recall that when we were discussing the possibility of an External Affairs representative in Sydney, one problem was the location of such an officer - if he were working with one particular Service it might arouse something akin to jealousy in others. The Censorship Office might provide a suitable "neutral" headquarters for such an officer and might furnish you with considerable information.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel W.R. Hodgson,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Urgent
Reply Wan
with or before
11/3

COPY

Censorship Office,

SYDNEY.

NCLO SY/1 425/41

24th February, 1941.

THE STAFF OFFICER, (INTELLIGENCE),
GARDEN ISLAND.

SUBMITTED: For your information:-

Further to SY/1 424/41, text of a cable from M. Lancial, French Consulate, Sydney to Diplomatie, Vichy as hereunder:-

"I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT ON SATURDAY NIGHT TREMOULET WAS ARRESTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES AND PUT IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP. I AM PROTESTING AND ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN RELEASE".

This message has been referred to Melbourne for instructions as to release.

(SGD) E. Brown

for N.C.L.O.

(Copy to D.N.I.)

(COPY)

SECRET

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. Naval Establishments,
Censorship Office,
SYDNEY, 24th February, 1941.

NCLO SY/I 424/41

THE STAFF OFFICER (INTELLIGENCE),
GARDEN ISLAND.

SUBMITTED: For your information:-

Text of a French Consular message sent by Diplomatie, Vichy to French Consul, Sydney, dated 16th February, 1941, received at Sydney on 19th and decoded on 20th February:

Translation:-
NO. 11 I REPLY TO YOUR TELEGRAM No. 4

TO YOUR TELEGRAMS 114 TO 116 RECEIVED FROM THE CHANNEL OF OUR AMBASSADOR AT TOKYO, MY PREDECESSOR HAD REPLIED BY THE SAME ROUTE ON 7TH FEBRUARY CONFIRMING TO YOU THAT YOU SHOULD HAND OVER THE (CONSULAR) SERVICES TO M. LANCIAL, DETACH?M. CLEMENTEL TO MELBOURNE AND RETURN NOT BY SINGAPORE SINCE YOU SAW OBJECTIONS TO THAT BUT BY BATAVIA WITH M. PUAUX.

THE LATTER HAVING LEFT HIS POSITION UNDER THE CONDITIONS INDICATED BY YOU TO GO TO NEW CALEDONIA IS DISMISSED.

YOU SHOULD NO LONGER TAKE YOURSELF TO BATAVIA AND SHOULD RETURN DIRECTLY TO FRANCE VIA SAN FRANCISCO.

M. LANCIAL WILL TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION SO FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED FOR THE RECOVERY OF DOCUMENTS AS SOON AS YOU SHALL HAVE HANDED OVER THE SERVICE TO HIM.

I DO NOT INSIST ON THE DESPATCH OF M. CLEMENTEL TO MELBOURNE IF YOU YOURSELF AND M. LANCIAL DO NOT CONSIDER THE CLOSING OF THE CHANCELLERY THERE INCONVENIENT.

KINDLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS TELEGRAM".

It is reported that M. Tremoulet has been taken into custody by orders from Army Headquarters.

(Sgd.) E. BROWN
For N.C.L.O.

(Copy to D.N.I.)

Leaving France - Sydney (Tremoulet)

-6 MAR 1941

PHONES:
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

No. Sm. 2427

SECRET

4 MAR 1941

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

SECRET

Jean TREMOULET

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your teleprinter message of the 1st March, 1941, regarding arrangements made in connection with the departure of the former French Consul-General, Jean Tremoulet.

Your action in directly advising Eastern Command in such matters where immediate action is required is very much appreciated.

(J. T. Fitzgerald)
Secretary.

WAW/jr Leonard Frank - Sydney (Trémoulet)

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

10th February, 1941.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter to you of 30th January and telephone conversations between you and Dr. Wynes of this Department regarding your departure from Australia, I confirm the decisions of the Commonwealth Government conveyed to you by Dr. Wynes on Friday last regarding your private funds and furniture.

As regards your private funds, the decision of the Commonwealth Government is that you be permitted to prepay your fares as far as possible from your Australian funds and then to take with you the 2091.43 U.S.A. dollars and 30,000 French francs of which you have credits at the French Bank in Sydney.

So far as furniture is concerned, you were informed that the decision of the Commonwealth Government was that you should be permitted to take with you only such furniture as you had brought into Australia. Consideration has been given to your further suggestion that you leave in Australia for the duration of the war on loan to the National Galleries in Melbourne and Sydney respectively a Dutch painting and a marble and take with you the remainder of your furniture and effects. I regret that the Commonwealth Government cannot see its way to avail itself of this offer and to vary its previous decision.

I confirm also that it is the desire of the Commonwealth Government that, as indicated by you, you will leave Australia for the United States by the next American vessel.

Yours faithfully,

M.J. Trémoulet,
French Consulate-General,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

7

Leonard France - Sydney (Tremoulet)

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
EN AUSTRALIE

7 MAR 1941

Sydney, le 5th March 1941

N° 8

Colonel W.R.Hodgson,
Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.A.C.T.

Sir,

I thank you for your courtesy in sending me, enclosed in your letter of the 1st March, copy of a press statement as issued by the Minister for External Affairs.

I have noticed that the statement was published only in the "Sydney Morning Herald" ; it did not appear either in the "Daily Telegraph" or in "The Sun", which papers had, both of them, given more prominence to the reports circulated about M. Trémoulet.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. Lancial.

Charles Lancial
Acting Consul General of France.

(L.S.) GEORGE R.I.

GEORGE THE SIXTH, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND THE BRITISH DOMINIONS BEYOND THE SEAS KING, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, EMPEROR OF INDIA, &C., &C., &C., TO ALL AND SINGULAR TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING'.

WHEREAS by the grant of Our Exequatur on the Sixteenth day of September One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-seven, We have recognised and approved of Monsieur Jean Gabriel Henry Marie Trémoulet, a citizen of the French Republic, as Consul-General of the French Republic at Sydney, for the Commonwealth of Australia

AND WHEREAS, for divers good causes and considerations Us thereunto moving, We have deemed it expedient no longer to recognise the said Jean Gabriel Henry Marie Trémoulet as Consul-General of the French Republic as aforesaid, and further to withdraw the Exequatur heretofore granted to him: NOW KNOW YE that we do hereby declare order and direct that the said Jean Gabriel Henry Marie Trémoulet shall henceforth no longer be recognised as Consul-General of the French Republic, or permitted to perform any duties or act in any respect as such Consul-General within Our dominions, and that We do hereby withdraw accordingly the Exequatur heretofore granted to him.

GIVEN at Our Court of Saint Jame's the Fifth day of December in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty and in the Fourth Year of Our Reign.

BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND,
CRANBORNE.

10/3W

Hodgson

1) Air Melb to Canb 7ri

2) minutes - letter from Brennan.

3). Gaches

4). Telegrams espec nickel

5). Telf Canb & Prem Cutting re removal to office Crew of Kamel. retained

WA Consulate France Sydney (Trémoulet)

H.33/1/5

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

NO. 229

SECRET.

Dominions Office,
Downing Street.

18 December, 1940.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 485 of 12th December, I have the honour to transmit the Instrument revoking the Exequatur issued to Monsieur Trémoulet as Consul General of the French Republic at Sydney for the Commonwealth of Australia.

Rec'd 5/3/41

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

Encl back

Cranborne

THE PRIME MINISTER OF

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

WAW.js

CANBERRA, A.C.T.
6th March, 1941.

Dear Commander Wilkinson,

I thank you for your letter of 28th February regarding the recent happenings in connection with one of the former members of the Consular Corps in Sydney.

The action taken in connection with the gentleman in question was taken without reference to or the knowledge of either my Minister or this Department. However, the Minister, upon receiving advice as to what had happened, took immediate steps to obtain his release. As you may be aware, all arrangements have been made for him to leave Australia this week.

Yours sincerely,

WRH

Commander A.W. Wilkinson,
Office of the Commodore-in-Charge,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.
5th March, 1941.

Dear Commander Wilkinson

I thank you for your letter of 28th February regarding the recent happenings in connection with one of the former members of the Consular Corps in Sydney.

The action taken in connection with the gentleman in question was taken without reference to or the knowledge of either my Minister or this Department. ~~and I know little of the circumstances which led to it.~~ However, the Minister, upon receiving ~~a protest, immediately~~ took the matter up and eventually we were able to smooth things out.

advice as soon as had happened, took immediately steps to obtain his release.

~~In the meantime~~ as you are aware, all arrangements have been made to have him leave Australia this week.

Yours sincerely,

W R Hodgson
WR

Commander A.W. Wilkinson,
Office of the Commodore-in-Charge,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Tremoulet

PRESS - 27/2/41.

The Minister for External Affairs, Sir Frederick Stewart, stated today that, based on certain inaccurate reports, some misunderstanding had arisen in regard to the position of M. Tremoulet and French Consulates in Australia, which he desired to correct.

"The Commonwealth Government", he said, "had withdrawn recognition of M. Tremoulet as Consul-General for France in Australia. This affected M. Tremoulet personally but in no way altered the status or jurisdiction of the other French Consuls in Australia. Thus it was not correct to assume that the Free French Movement had taken over the functions of the French Consulate."

In view of the fact that M. Tremoulet had no official standing in Australia, the French Government decided to recall him to France.

Accordingly, M. Tremoulet has made all arrangements for his departure and he will leave by the next boat for America.

"It is not true, as has been stated, that M. Tremoulet is under police supervision", Sir Frederick concluded.

Issued RR 27/2/41.

Hemoulet

OFFICE OF THE
COMMODORE-IN-CHARGE, SYDNEY

- 4 MAR 1941

28th February, 1941.

Dear Colonel Hodgson,

It has come to my ears that most of the Consuls in Sydney are more than a little upset at what has recently happened to one who, though perhaps discredited, is still regarded as a member or late member of the fraternity. I understand that some form of official protest is contemplated, though the one who let me know is understood to be trying to smooth things out.

I know practically nothing about these recent events. In any case, they have nothing to do with the Navy. I can only pass it on unofficially; it may be of some value to you.

It would be a pity if the gentleman became a martyr.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Dickinson

SYDNEY.
27th February, 1941.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th February in regard to the detention of M. Tremoulet, and to inform you that the Commonwealth Government has given careful consideration to the representations and request you have submitted.

I would first point out that, although M. Tremoulet is a member of the French Government's diplomatic and consular service, his representation in the Commonwealth of Australia was not diplomatic but consular. As such he received the King's Exequatur as a Consul General with jurisdiction over all the Australian States, and was recognised by the Commonwealth Government in that capacity.

As you are aware, His Majesty, on the advice of the Commonwealth Government, withdrew that exequatur, and on the 19th December, 1940, the Commonwealth Gazette announced that M. Tremoulet was no longer recognised as Consul General for France in Australia. While he continued to remain in Australia he could not therefore be regarded as having any official status whatever in relation to the Commonwealth Government.

Even if the action in regard to the withdrawal of recognition had not been taken, any submission that M. Tremoulet would be entitled to immunity could not in any case be acceptable to the Commonwealth Government. Any concessions and privileges granted to Consuls are on the basis of reciprocity and not founded on well established principles as pertain to the diplomatic sphere. For example, as you are aware, Consuls do not have the wide civil and criminal jurisdiction immunities as have members of the diplomatic corps and their staffs.

As regards the actual facts of the case in question, the Commonwealth Government was fully justified in the action it took in broad national interests, irrespective of other grounds. The continued presence of M. Tremoulet was not only causing great embarrassment, but resulting in dissension in the community at a time when unity for the prosecution of the war effort was imperative.

Grave doubts had arisen as to whether M. Tremoulet actually intended to leave Australia despite the arrangements made for his departure, and consequently it was decided he should be detained until he could leave Australia. Upon satisfactory assurances being received from yourself and from other quarters that he would leave by the next

boat to America, the Commonwealth Government thereupon ordered his release.

The Commonwealth Government regrets that it was necessary to have had to take the action it did, and expresses the hope, despite your doubt, that the traditional friendly relations between France and Australia will remain unaffected.

Assuring you of the co-operation and help of the Commonwealth Government in your appointment as Acting Consul General.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. H. STEWART

Minister for External
Affairs.

M. Charles Lancial,
Acting Consul General of France,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
EN AUSTRALIE

Sydney, le 24th February, 1941

N° 4

Sir Frederick Stewart,
Minister for External Affairs,
SYDNEY.

Sir,

On Saturday night, at eleven o'clock, four men, two policemen and two military officers, called at the temporary residence of M. Jean Trémoulet, Marlborough Hall, Roslyn Street, Elizabeth Bay, arrested him and took him away to the Liverpool Internment Camp, where he is now among Italian internees, submitted to the discipline of the camp, living in a hut and sleeping on a straw mattress.

No charges have been preferred against him.

Although M. Trémoulet has been deprived of his exequatur by the Commonwealth Government, he still remains a Consul General of France, a high official of the French Government's diplomatic and consular service.

The action of the Australian authorities is a violation of the principle internationally admitted of diplomatic and consular immunity. It is clear that if it were sufficient for a Government to withdraw the recognition of a diplomat or the exequatur of a Consul to be justified in laying hands on him without warning, the principle of personal immunity would have a purely illusory value.

For all these reasons, I enter the most emphatic protest, in the name of my Government, against the arrest of M. Trémoulet and the indignities meted out to him.

My Government, when acquainted with the facts, cannot fail to take the strongest view of the case; it constitutes, indeed, an offence to France and it cannot be doubted that the future relations between France and Australia will be in consequence most unfavourably influenced - unless redress is immediately made.

I formally request the release of M. Trémoulet with suitable apologies and reparation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Lancial.

Charles Lancial
Acting Consul General of France.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SYDNEY.

26th February, 1941.

My dear Acting Prime Minister,

I attach, for favour of your kind attention, a memorandum and draft letter relating to the internment of M. Tremoulet, Consul General of France.

Yours sincerely,

Minister for External Affairs.

The Hon. A. Fadden, M.P.,
Acting Prime Minister,
Commonwealth Offices,
SYDNEY.

Draft approved

26/2/41

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Draft.

SYDNEY.
26th February, 1941.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th February in regard to the detention of M. Tremoulet, and to inform you that the Commonwealth Government has given careful consideration to the representations and request you have submitted.

I would first point out that, although M. Tremoulet is a member of the French Government's diplomatic and consular service, his representation in the Commonwealth of Australia was not diplomatic but consular. As such he received the King's Exequatur as a Consul General with jurisdiction over all the Australian States, and was recognised by the Commonwealth Government in that capacity.

As you are aware His Majesty on the advice of the Commonwealth Government withdrew that exequatur, and on the 19th December, 1940, the Commonwealth Gazette announced that M. ~~Tremoulet was~~ no longer recognised as Consul General for France in Australia. While he continued to remain in Australia he could not therefore be regarded as having any official status whatever in relation to the Commonwealth Government.

Even if the action in regard to the withdrawal of recognition had not been taken, any submission that M. Tremoulet would be entitled to immunity could not in any case be acceptable to the Commonwealth Government. Any concessions and privileges granted to Consuls are on the basis of reciprocity and not founded on well established principles as pertain to the diplomatic sphere. For example, as you are aware, Consuls do not have the ~~same~~ wide civil and criminal jurisdiction immunities as have members of the diplomatic corps, ~~have~~ & their staffs.

As regards the actual facts of the case in question, the Commonwealth Government was fully justified in the action it took ~~on behalf~~ in vindication of national interests, irrespective of other grounds. The continued presence of M. Tremoulet was not only causing great embarrassment, but resulting in dissension in the community at a time when unity for the prosecution of the war effort was imperative.

Grave doubts had arisen as to whether M.Tremoulet actually intended to leave Australia despite the arrangements made for his departure, and consequently it was decided he should be detained until he could leave Australia.

Upon satisfactory assurances being received from yourself and from other quarters that he would leave by the next boat to America, the Commonwealth Government thereupon ordered his release.

The Commonwealth Government regrets that it was necessary to have had to take the action it did, ~~but~~ and expresses the hope, despite your doubt, that the traditional friendly relations between France and Australia will remain unaffected.

Assuring you of the co-operation and help of the Commonwealth Government in your appointment as Acting Consul General.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Minister for External
Affairs.

M. Charles Lancial,
Acting Consul General of France,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

~~AGENDA FOR CABINET.~~

INTERNMENT OF M. TREMOULET, CONSUL-GENERAL
FOR FRANCE.

1. Attached hereto is copy of letter dated 24th February from the Acting Consul-General of France, requesting suitable apologies and reparation for the internment of M. Tremoulet by the Commonwealth Government on 22nd February.

2. The facts of this case briefly are as follows:-

After the defection of France, diplomatic relations between France and England were severed, but all Dominion and Colonial Governments allowed French Consular jurisdiction to remain. Canada even retains diplomatic relations and there is still a French Minister at Ottawa.

In Australia, the activities and talk of M. Tremoulet, the Consul-General, were prejudicing the cause of the Free French movement in Australia, he was causing dissension in the French community, and his attitude was generally anti-British.

As a consequence, Cabinet decided to recommend to the King that his exequatur be withdrawn, and on 19th December the Commonwealth Gazette notified he was no longer recognised as Consul-General in Australia.

3. It is to be noted no request was made to M. Tremoulet nor to the Vichy Government for his actual departure from Australia, but he was informed this would be advisable in the circumstances.

He requested the Vichy Government for instructions, but apparently owing to difficulties of communication these were not forthcoming until the Commonwealth Government itself used the channel of French Embassy and Australian Legation, Washington.

4. In the meantime, M. Tremoulet prepared for early departure from Australia. This Department, in close co-operation with Military Intelligence, the Commonwealth Bank and the Treasury, made decisions in regard to his bank balances, payment of fares, and furniture to be taken.

Arrangements for his departure to America on 7th March had all been completed, he had purchased his fares, he had been assured of safe conduct and had handed over the Consulate-General to his successor, M. Lancial.

5. Without reference to the Minister for External Affairs or the Military Intelligence, War Cabinet decided that M. Tremoulet should be interned until his departure from Australia.

Presumably it acted on some fresh evidence of his activities, which must have been considered so grave as to justify his detention a fortnight before his departure, although all the available evidence of the previous six months in the possession of the Departments did not warrant so grave a step.

In view of the requests of the British Government to adopt a moderate policy towards France, to do nothing which would weaken the determination of the French to resist further German demands, I immediately raised the question of M. Tremoulet's internment with the Acting Prime Minister and the Minister for the Army. As a result, he was released from internment on the 24th February.

6. In regard to the request for redress by the Acting Consul-General on behalf of the French Government, it can be said that Consuls have not the same immunity in international law as diplomatists and their staffs. By recognised custom and reciprocity they are, however, granted safe conduct, concessions and privileges pertaining to the diplomatic sphere.

We had ample evidence on which to intern certain of the German and Italian Consuls, but they were all allowed to depart from Australia without the indignity of detention or internment.

As I see it, the order of the War Cabinet amounts to an act of State, which may have far reaching consequences, but which no doubt can be justified in national interests on the evidence before it.

In the circumstances, I can only suggest a reply on the lines of the attached draft, for any apology or reparation following on the quick release, would be an admission of unjustifiable action.

SYDNEY.
27th February, 1941.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th February in regard to the detention of M. Tremoulet, and to inform you that the Commonwealth Government has given careful consideration to the representations and request you have submitted.

I would first point out that, although M. Tremoulet is a member of the French Government's diplomatic and consular service, his representation in the Commonwealth of Australia was not diplomatic but consular. As such he received the King's Exequatur as a Consul General with jurisdiction over all the Australian States, and was recognised by the Commonwealth Government in that capacity.

As you are aware, His Majesty, on the advice of the Commonwealth Government, withdrew that exequatur, and on the 19th December, 1940, the Commonwealth Gazette announced that M. Tremoulet was no longer recognised as Consul General for France in Australia. While he continued to remain in Australia he could not therefore be regarded as having any official status whatever in relation to the Commonwealth Government.

Even if the action in regard to the withdrawal of recognition had not been taken, any submission that M. Tremoulet would be entitled to immunity could not in any case be acceptable to the Commonwealth Government. Any concessions and privileges granted to Consuls are on the basis of reciprocity and not founded on well established principles as pertain to the diplomatic sphere. For example, as you are aware, Consuls do not have the wide civil and criminal jurisdiction immunities as have members of the diplomatic corps and their staffs.

As regards the actual facts of the case in question, the Commonwealth Government was fully justified in the action it took in broad national interests, irrespective of other grounds. The continued presence of M. Tremoulet was not only causing great embarrassment, but resulting in dissension in the community at a time when unity for the prosecution of the war effort was imperative.

Grave doubts had arisen as to whether M. Tremoulet actually intended to leave Australia despite the arrangements made for his departure, and consequently it was decided he should be detained until he could leave Australia. Upon satisfactory assurances being received from yourself and from other quarters that he would leave by the next

WAW.GP

CANBERRA A.C.T.
1st March 1941.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith for your information copy of a press statement as issued by the Minister on 27th February regarding the position of M. Tremoulet.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WRH

Secretary.

The Consul in Charge,

French Consulate-General,

341 George Street,

SYDNEY.

5/3
W

M Tremoulet.

DRAFT PRESS

Wynes / Send original copy of Church Chronicle

The Minister for External Affairs, Sir Frederick Stewart, stated today that, based on certain inaccurate reports, some misunderstanding had arisen in regard to the position of M. Tremoulet and French Consulates in Australia, which he desired to correct.

"The Commonwealth Government", he said, "had withdrawn recognition of M. Tremoulet as Consul General for France in Australia. This affected M. Tremoulet personally but in no way altered the status or jurisdiction of the other French Consuls in Australia. Thus it was not correct to assume that the Free French Movement had taken over the functions of the French Consulate."

In view of the fact that M. Tremoulet had no official standing in Australia, the French Government decided to recall him to France.

Accordingly, M. Tremoulet has made all arrangements for his departure and he will leave by the next boat for America.

Tremoulet.

MELBOURNE.
19th February, 1941.

UNOFFICIAL.

Dear Mr. McClure Smith,

Adverting to telephone conversation of yesterday, I am forwarding herewith summary of action taken in connection with the departure of Mr. Tremoulet from Australia.

Apart from what is contained in this document I can assure you that no undue consideration has been extended to Mr. Tremoulet.

Yours sincerely,

5th Feb

19th Feb.

Mr. McClure Smith,
"Sydney Morning Herald",
Pitt Street,
SYDNEY.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SYDNEY.
19th February, 1941.

MINISTER.

M. TREMOULET - LATE CONSUL-GENERAL FOR FRANCE.

I desire to inform you that in accordance with your general instructions, arrangements have been made for M. Tremoulet to depart from Australia by the next boat to America, which it is understood will leave within a fortnight.

His passages as far as possible are being prepaid from his Australian funds, the balance of the £4000 being retained in Australia. He is being allowed to take away with him only his money in Dollars and Francs, amounting to approximately £860.

He is not being allowed to take away any furniture purchased in Australia, but only such furniture as he originally brought into Australia.

He is not recognised in any way by the Commonwealth Government as having any consular jurisdiction, and the Commonwealth Government refuses to take cognisance of his point of view in certain disputes now in progress relating to consular papers, moneys and strong room.

There is no ground whatever for statements emanating from Free French sources to the effect that the Commonwealth Government is making little effort to ensure Tremoulet's early departure. We know for a fact that he was supposed to proceed to Indo-China, then this was cancelled and he was without instructions from his Government. We endeavoured to expedite the matter by cabling the Australian Minister in Washington to ask the French Embassy there

to see that immediate instructions were forthcoming from Vichy.

Tremoulet is still without instructions as to where he is to proceed, but the Commonwealth Government is insisting that he await these instructions in America.

WRM

TELEPRINTER MESSAGE TO SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
FROM SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Date:

No. Secret

Reference Tremoulet who is leaving Australia next week. The Minister has decided that he be permitted to take with him all of his personal furniture with the exception of a marble and a print which he is to leave in Australia for the National Gallaries in Sydney and Melbourne respectively in accordance with his previous suggestion. He is also to be given a safe conduct.

Tremoulet also requested permission to take with him statements of accounts relating to the Consulate. I told him there would be no objection provided that these papers were inspected by an officer of the Commonwealth Government and sealed by the latter. Would you instruct Eastern Command accordingly.

The foregoing has been communicated by telephone direct to Colonel Powell so that the necessary action could be taken at once. You will no doubt confirm this to Colonel Powell.

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department.

Referred for favour of transmission.

W

Secretary,
Dept. External Affairs.
1/3/41.

copies to {Tr—C / Treas.} for inf & action in com with prev corresp'ce. 3/3/41.

COPIES TO CUSTOMS DEPT.
TREASURY DEPT.
in c/w prev. corres.
3.3.41.

5/3
W

Ask Papers to rectify possible
impression – reflects
on his honour –
done somewhat ~~very~~
dishonorable

S Sun – 2 P.M.
duties taken over
new French representative
under police supervision

(MK H.C. as well)

Safe-conduct for Mr Reynolds.

+ Take Accounts.
Perusal Heal

M Thomsoulis

PWE/EC

SECRET
SECRET
1/9/17

PHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

28 FEB 1941

No. C/H 5383

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

26th February, 1941

C.L.O (External Affairs)
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

FRENCH CONSULATE

I attach copy of telegram from Lancial, Sydney to Vichy dated 24/2/41 held by District Censor, 2nd Military District in accordance with the arrangement made by telephone between us. The District Censor will not release the message until expressly instructed to do so.

P. W. Ectuson
Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

SECRET

FROM: LANCIAL,
Sydney.

TO: DIPLOMATIE,
Vichy.

DATED: 24th. February, 1941.

TRANSLATION:

"6. I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT ON SATURDAY EVENING M. TREMOULET WAS ARRESTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES AND PUT IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP.

"I AM PROTESTING AND DOING MY UTMOST TO OBTAIN HIS RELEASE."

M Tremoulet.

A.A. Form A. 57.
(Reprinted November, 1940.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

1/9/47

Receipt for SECRET Documents.

Issued to C.L.O. Echuca Affairs *Date* 26.2. 19 44

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Copy No. ..... of Secret Document

CIH 5362
5383
+ Attachment

(*Signed*) W

(*Appointment*) .....

Date 28/2

NOTES.

1. ~~THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THIS FORM.~~
2. The officer responsible for the safe custody of the document will sign the receipt.
3. THE RECIPIENT OF THE SECRET DOCUMENT MENTIONED ABOVE WILL ACCOUNT FOR IT ANNUALLY ON THE RETURN OF SECRET DOCUMENTS. (STRIKE OUT THIS NOTE IF NOT APPLICABLE.)
4. This Document supersedes ....., copies of which will be destroyed by fire and a certificate of destruction rendered to the address shown below.

(To be completed and original returned immediately in a single unregistered envelope).

To CONTROLLER OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP Victoria Barracks Melbourne

(*Head-quarters Issuing Document.*)

D.64/6.40.—7007. By Authority: I. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

PWE/OM

SECRET

SECRET

1/9/17

TELEPHONES:
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

No. C/H. 5358

28 FEB 1941

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

26th February 1941.

C.L.O. (External Affairs),
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

FRENCH CONSULATE

For your information I attach copy of telegram released at Sydney on 22nd February, 1941, after consultation with you.

P. W. Ethison

Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

SECRET

From: Tremoulet,
French Consul General,
Sydney.

To: Diplomatie,
Vichy.

Lodged: 5.30p.m. 21/2/41.

Released for Transmission: 22/2/41.

"5. REFERRING TO YOUR No.11 I WILL LEAVE AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH BY THE ROUTE THAT YOU INDICATE.

"LANCIAL WILL TAKE OVER AFTER MELBOURNE IS CLOSED.

"PLEASE CABLE NEWS OF FAMILIES LANCIAL FAURE CLEMENTEL MORNAND TREMOULET AND ADVISE MY MOTHER OF MY RETURN.

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS (RELATIVELY) ACCOMMODATING REGARDING MY TAKING OUT PERSONAL FUNDS BUT IS STOPPING ME FROM TAKING AWAY PART OF THE FURNITURE AND NON-PERSONAL DOCUMENTS."

deleted.

file - Tremoulet

SYDNEY.
19th February, 1941.

MINISTER.

M. TREMOULET - LATE CONSUL-GENERAL FOR FRANCE.

I desire to inform you that in accordance with your general instructions, arrangements have been made for M. Tremoulet to depart from Australia by the next boat to America, which it is understood will leave within a fortnight.

His passages as far as possible are being prepaid from his Australian funds, the balance of the £400 being retained in Australia. He is being allowed to take away with him only his money in Dollars and Francs, amounting to approximately £860.

He is not being allowed to take away any furniture purchased in Australia, but only such furniture as he originally brought into Australia.

He is not recognised in any way by the Commonwealth Government as having any consular jurisdiction, and the Commonwealth Government refuses to take cognisance of his point of view in certain disputes now in progress relating to consular papers, moneys and strong room.

There is no ground whatever for statements emanating from Free French sources to the effect that the Commonwea th Government is making little effort to ensure Tremoulet's early departure. We know for a fact that he was supposed to proceed to Indo-China, then this was cancelled and he was without instructions from his Government. We endeavoured to expedite the matter by cabling the Australian Minister in Washington to ask the French Embassy there

28/2

to see that immediate instructions were forthcoming from Vichy.

Tremoulet is still without instructions as to where he is to proceed, but the Commonwealth Government is insisting that he await these instructions in America.

Col. Powell informed me this morning that everything had been fixed that Tremoulet leaving by next US boat within fortnight
AP 1/3/41.

[redacted]ullet to Vichy

"No reply to my last telegram. I have that the Amer Govt has been advised by the Gov't. advised from Washington ~~has~~ that you ~~had been~~ have appointed me ~~to~~ another office ~~that~~ & that Lancial would take charge of the ~~consulate~~ general.

In agreement with the ~~Gov Govt~~ Amer authorities I am taking the next American ship for San Francisco where I shall await further instructions.

~~Please give me instructions~~

(a) Clemenceau

M. Clemenceau advised we wd be forced to ~~[illegible]~~ authorize above & no more. He stated that a telegr had been lost with Lansing.

24
~~19~~
2
W

without reply to my last telegram

Gen Pool advised ex Wash had applied to another & that Lancaster would take charge of the consulate/ generally in agreement with Ams authorities.

In agreement I am ~~to take~~ taking next Amer ship for San Francisco, where I shall await instructions.

~~Providing for possible aff't in Asia I have.~~

Also received a passport addressed Sydney Newman but bearing Yokohama, Thomson.

Please give me direct. return France or elsewhere if Clemenceau is to take charge of Melle Puaux

has left for N. after changing combin. & safe & deposited in a local bank keys & doubtless small balance of the p. cash held by him & docts especially codes that could only result by a legal decision. Do you authorise us to take legal judgs.

allume a quarter of an hour

Beginning of Dec 8 5 mins. never in T's pm. strong m. locked. rely (as b box, letters, coded?) 12 Jan.

Papers

Rosenblum

Gr Room 8 Bond st

B1600

wire

Cagen Monday

Mag. Outlow states no telegr. for Cgen. would be released who refer to us 12/2 BINNS.

Lemon:- Intent M Puaux has refused to go to Canton has left for Kowloon & Dept Parkes advised.

Demoulin

7/2/41.

MELBOURNE.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

With the Compliments

of the

Minister for Information

T.G.42B

Fun[illegible] may be quickly, safely and [illegible]nomically transferred by MONEY ORDER TELEGRAM (PLEASE TURN OVER)

Sch. C2556. 10/1939.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

RECEIVED TELEGRAM.

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.

The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named.

Office Date Stamp. CHIEF TELEGRAPH OFFICE 6 FE 41 MELBOURNE

Sent at

Chnl No.

By

Office of Origin. Words. Time Lodged.

URGT X 369 SYDNEY 43 5-14 P

No.

SENATOR FOLL 01292

MINISTER FOR INTERIOR

CARE DEPARTINFORM MELBOURNE

UNDERSTAND EX CONSUL GENERAL TREMOULET NOT LEAVING AUSTRALIA YET STOP STRONGLY PROTEST ON BEHALF ALL FREE FRENCHMEN AGAINST LENIENCY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TOWARDS HIM STOP CONSIDER SHOULD BE COMPELLED TO LEAVE ABSOLUTE FIRST OPPORTUNITY

... ANDRE BRENAC

5-26/ES

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS,
SOCIAL MESSAGES, MOTHERS' DAY REMEMBRANCES
as well as EASTER and
CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR GREETINGS
are issued on attractively coloured and appropriately designed telegram forms
WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE

You may lodge your message at any TELEGRAPH OFFICE on the usual telegram form, or telephone it to "TELEGRAMS," indicating that the message is to be issued on an ornamental form.

NOTE.—The standard time for the Eastern States of Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania) is half an hour in advance of the standard time for South Australia, and Two hours in advance of the standard time for Western Australia.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

10th February, 1941.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter to you of 30th January and telephone conversations between you and Dr. Wynes of this Department regarding your departure from Australia, I confirm the decisions of the Commonwealth Government conveyed to you by Dr. Wynes on Friday last regarding your private funds and furniture.

As regards your private funds, the decision of the Commonwealth Government is that you be permitted to prepay your fares as far as possible from your Australian funds and then to take with you the 2091.43 U.S.A. dollars and 30,000 French francs of which you have credits at the French Bank in Sydney.

So far as furniture is concerned, you were informed that the decision of the Commonwealth Government was that you should be permitted to take with you only such furniture as you had brought into Australia. Consideration has been given to your further suggestion that you leave in Australia for the duration of the war on loan to the National Galleries in Melbourne and Sydney respectively a Dutch painting and a marble and take with you the remainder of your furniture and effects. I regret that the Commonwealth Government cannot see its way to avail itself of this offer and to vary its previous decision.

I confirm also that it is the desire of the Commonwealth Government that, as indicated by you, you will leave Australia for the United States by the next American vessel.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W.R. Hodson

M.J. Trémoulet,
French Consulate-General,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Copies { Army
Treas
T.O.C.
Mf
New corresp
10/2/41

14
B
12
2
W

DRAFT LETTER TO M. J.TREMOULET, French Consulate-General,
341 George Street, SYDNEY.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter to you of 30th January and telephone conversations between you and Dr. Wynes of this Department regarding your departure from Australia, I confirm the decisions of the Commonwealth Government conveyed to you by Dr. Wynes on Friday last regarding your private funds and furniture.

As regards your private funds, the decision of the Commonwealth Government is that you be permitted to prepay your fares as far as possible from your Australian funds and then to take with you the 2091.43 U.S.A. dollars and 30,000 French francs of which you have credits at the French Bank in Sydney.

So far as furniture is concerned, you were informed that the decision of the Commonwealth Government was that you should be permitted to take with you only such furniture as you had brought into Australia. Consideration has been given to your further suggestion that you ~~would be prepared to~~ leave in Australia for the duration of the war on loan to the National Galleries in Melbourne and Sydney respectively a Dutch painting and a marble and take with you the remainder of your furniture and effects. I regret that the Commonwealth Government cannot see its way to avail itself of this offer and to vary its previous decision.

I confirm also that it is the desire of the Commonwealth Government that, as indicated by you, you will leave Australia for the United States by the next American vessel.

Yours faithfully,

extra copy for Minister

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

WRH.js

FOR THE MINISTER.

Departure of former French Consul-General, M. Tremoulet.

(1) On 30th January, M. Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, was asked by letter to indicate as soon as possible his intentions in regard to his departure from Australia. He was also informed inter alia that he would not be permitted to take out of the country a greater sum than reasonably necessary to provide for his journey back to France. In addition, he was told that the Commonwealth Government felt it necessary to insist upon the prepayment in Australia, as far as possible, of fares in connection with the journey. In regard to furniture, a hint was given that it would be reasonable for M. Tremoulet to dispose of his car and furniture as this would leave only his personal effects to be taken by him from Australia.

(2) The Consul-General telephoned the Department this morning (5th February) and raised questions regarding his private means and furniture. On the first point he stated that he was disappointed that he would not be permitted to take at least his United States dollars and French francs which he had in credit in the French Bank in Sydney. He was unable to see why he should be treated like the Italian consuls who were enemy consuls. He requested, therefore, that he be permitted to take with him not only enough for travelling expenses, but also the dollars and francs. In regard to furniture, he stated that he had not sold more than a few pieces and wished to take it with him to the United States.

(3) The External Affairs Officer in London, in reply to an enquiry by this Department, advised that the United Kingdom authorities were in agreement with the view of the Commonwealth Government that the Consul-General should not be allowed to take more Australian pounds than reasonably necessary for the journey and that they would be inclined to let him take the French francs as well. British Consuls-General formerly in Algiers, Tunis and Casablanca, were permitted by the French authorities to take their bank balances with them, but the position was different as they had no large amounts in French territory. French Consuls in the United Kingdom were permitted to take sufficient sterling for the journey and their French francs. Having regard to all the circumstances, a reasonable course would seem to be to permit Tremoulet to prepay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds, and then to take with him his dollars and francs, the equivalent of £850, in cash. He has in fact £A.4,000, plus £600 in dollars and £250 in French francs.

(4) Regarding furniture, the External Affairs Officer advised that French consuls in the United Kingdom were, in one or two cases, permitted to take with them their wife's jewellery, but everything else was held. On this point, it is suggested that the Consul-General be permitted to take his furniture with him.

£1200

Seel valuable Dutch French furniture & silk. Belgian & a marble £100.

£1300

Let go for duration

Cancel money

Furniture & valuables. Car?

Fare prepayment? Enough?

/M. Tremoulet

WRH

M. Tremoulet also advised that he had made a tentative booking on a Japanese ship but that he would now prefer to go by the next American boat. He stated that if the Commonwealth Government indicated that it would wish him to depart within a given time he would do so. It is suggested that M. Tremoulet should be informed that the Commonwealth Government desires him to leave Australia by the next American vessel.

5th February 1941.

WAW.MS

A.C.T., 7th February, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to -

The Comptroller-General,
Department of Trade and Customs.

I desire to inform you that M.Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, will shortly be leaving Australia, his exequatur having been recently withdrawn by His Majesty on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Government. In connection with M. Tremoulet's departure, the following decisions have been made :

(1) That he is to be permitted to pre-pay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds and to take with him certain dollars and francs of which he has credits in the French bank at Sydney. Any other monies are to remain in this country.

(2) Regarding furniture, the decision is that M.Tremoulet shall be permitted to take with him such furniture as he brought into Australia and no other.

It is understood that M.Tremoulet will be leaving for the United States by the next American vessel.

The Departments of the Treasury and Army have been advised, and I should be glad if you would arrange for any appropriate action so far as your Department is concerned to be taken in conjunction with the Eastern Command.

Secretary.

WAW.MS

A.C.T., 7th February, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to -

The Secretary,
Department of the Treasury.

With reference to previous correspondence regarding M.Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, I desire to inform you that it has been decided that with regard to monies, M. Tremoulet is to be permitted to pre-pay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds and to take with him his dollars and francs.

As regards furniture, the decision is that M.Tremoulet shall be allowed to take with him only such furniture as he brought with him to Australia.

It is understood that M. Tremoulet will be leaving Australia for the United States by the next American vessel.

I shall be glad if the necessary action in this matter can be taken accordingly.

The Departments of the Army and Trade and Customs have been advised.

Secretary.

TELEPRINTER MESSAGE TO SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, FROM SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Reference M. Tremoulet. It has been decided that with regard to monies M. Tremoulet is to be permitted to prepay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds and to take with him his dollars and francs.

As regards furniture, the decision is that M.Tremoulet shall be allowed to take with him only such furniture as he brought with him to Australia.

It is understood that M. Tremoulet will be leaving Australia for the United States by the next American vessel.

The Departments of the Treasury and Trade and Customs have been advised.

7.2.41.

Consul Franc Sydney
Tremoulet

A.C.T., 6th February, 1941.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Telegram No.62 from the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs regarding the former French Consul-General, I desire to inform you that the latest information which was received by the Department of External Affairs yesterday from M. Tremoulet himself is that he proposes to proceed direct to the United States by an American vessel. So far as M. Puaux is concerned, he has informed the Commonwealth Government that he is not taking up his new post, but is joining M. Sautot in New Caledonia.

If any information is received conflicting with that set out above, you will be informed.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Handed to Melbourne Off

The Official Secretary,
United Kingdom High Commissioner,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

SECRET

I. 1748.

CABLEGRAM.

DECYPHER FROM
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS,
LONDON.

Sent 2nd February, 1941.
12.5 a.m.
Received 3rd February, 1941.

Received through United Kingdom High Commissioner.

No. 62.

SECRET.

Addressed to High Commissioner Canberra No. 62.
Repeated to Governor, Singapore, No. 136.

Please see telegram No. 38 of 26th January from Governor of Straits Settlements to Secretary of State for Colonies, repeated to Prime Minister, Commonwealth of Australia.

We think that permission for Tremoulet to pass through Singapore should not be granted unless no other route is open to him. Apart from special security considerations attached to Singapore, it is our general policy to deny facilities to unfriendly Vichy officials and to make their movements as inconvenient and circuitous as possible. These considerations apply with less force to Pueux in view of his pro-Ally sentiments but it is considered that even in his case it would be preferable for him to take another route. Do Commonwealth Government agree? Please repeat your reply to Governor of Straits Settlements.

Copy sent to Minr. and Dept. E.A. for advice.
" " Interior
Def. Co-ord., Army.

4/2/41.

THE SECRETARY,
DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

REFERRED.

SECRETARY.

John
Our latest information from T. is today is that he is proceeding direct to U.S. by American Vessel, while Pueux has informed us he is not taking but is going South to N.C.

WRH.js

FOR THE MINISTER.

Departure of former French Consul-General, M. Tremoulet.

(1) On 30th January, M. Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, was asked by letter to indicate as soon as possible his intentions in regard to his departure from Australia. He was also informed inter alia that he would not be permitted to take out of the country a greater sum than reasonably necessary to provide for his journey back to France. In addition, he was told that the Commonwealth Government felt it necessary to insist upon the prepayment in Australia, as far as possible, of fares in connection with the journey. In regard to furniture, a hint was given that it would be reasonable for M. Tremoulet to dispose of his car and furniture as this would leave only his personal effects to be taken by him from Australia.

(2) The Consul-General telephoned the Department this morning (5th February) and raised questions regarding his private means and furniture. On the first point he stated that he was disappointed that he would not be permitted to take at least his United States dollars and French francs which he had in credit in the French Bank in Sydney. He was unable to see why he should be treated like the Italian consuls who were enemy consuls. He requested, therefore, that he be permitted to take with him not only enough for travelling expenses, but also the dollars and francs. In regard to furniture, he stated that he had not sold more than a few pieces and wished to take it with him to the United States.

(3) The External Affairs Officer in London, in reply to an enquiry by this Department, advised that the United Kingdom authorities were in agreement with the view of the Commonwealth Government that the Consul-General should not be allowed to take more Australian pounds than reasonably necessary for the journey and that they would be inclined to let him take the French francs as well. British Consuls-General formerly in Algiers, Tunis and Casablanca, were permitted by the French authorities to take their bank balances with them, but the position was different as they had no large amounts in French territory. French Consuls in the United Kingdom were permitted to take sufficient sterling for the journey and their French francs. Having regard to all the circumstances, a reasonable course would seem to be to permit Tremoulet to prepay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds, and then to take with him his dollars and francs, the equivalent of £850, in cash. He has in fact £A.4,000, plus £600 in dollars and £250 in French francs.

Seen & noted by Minister Lehmann bank 6/2

Approved by Minister per WRH 6/2

(4) Regarding furniture, the External Affairs Officer advised that French consuls in the United Kingdom were, in one or two cases, permitted to take with them their wife's jewellery, but everything else was held. On this point, it is suggested that the Consul-General be permitted to take his furniture with him.

On this, Leech is can take away what he brought in only

per WRH 6/2 The unfortunate phone.

/M. Tremoulet

M. Tremoulet also advised that he had made a tentative booking on a Japanese ship but that he would now prefer to go by the next American boat. He stated that if the Commonwealth Government indicated that it would wish him to depart within a given time he would do so. It is suggested that M. Tremoulet should be informed that the Commonwealth Government desires him to leave Australia by the next American vessel.

5th February 1941.

Consuls France - Sydney - Tremoulet

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

FILE COPY

CABLEGRAM.

299

DECYPHER FROM AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON.

81.

Date Sent: 8.21 p.m. - 31/1/41.
Date Recd: 1st February, 1941.

Your telegram 282.

(a) Vichy has informed French Embassy that Tremoulet has been moved to another post.

(b) Intention is to appoint as successor Meric de Bellefon who has rank as Minister Plenipotentiary and until June 1940 was Commercial Attache London.

(c) As it is impossible at present to determine how and when Bellefon could reach Australia, Tremoulet meanwhile is to hand over to Lencisl, French Consul Melbourne.

Embassy understands that Tremoulet was advised direct on January 19th.

leaving France - Sydney, re Tremoulet

IN REPLY QUOTE

No. N.I.D. 194/123.

-3 FEB 1941

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: MXY 550

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "NAVY, MELBOURNE"

NAVY OFFICE,

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MELBOURNE, S.C. 1

1 FEB 1941

SECRET.

05591

MEMORANDUM FOR: -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

I desire to inform you that information has been received that the ex-Consul-General for France, M. Tremoulet, has booked a passage in "ATUTA MARU" which is due to leave Sydney for Japan on 10th February.

2. There has been considerable gossip in Consular circles regarding the degree of collaboration which existed between M. Tremoulet before he relinquished office, and the Japanese Consul-General. From various sources it was reported that M. Tremoulet paid frequent and lengthy visits to the Japanese Consul-General.

3. The wife of the Dutch Consul-General (Mr. Elink Schuurman) is reported by a fully reliable source to have stated that her husband had told her that he knew beyond doubt that Tremoulet had despatched secret messages to Vichy through the Japanese Consulate-General in Sydney.

for Macandie

Secretary.

W

EMO/EMB Liemoulet leaves France by any re Liemoulet.

SECRET

SECRE

TELEPHONES:
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. C/H.4933.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

-3FEB 1941

31st January 1941.

C.L.O.
(Department of External Affairs).

.....

FRENCH NATIONALS.

I attach copies of three letters. I have sent copies to the Comptroller of Trade and Customs and applied for approval, under the Trading with the Enemy Act, for these letters to go forward.

R.C. Owston.
Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

noted

COPY of letter to M. Jean Tremoulet,
Consul General for France,
7 Wynyard Street,
SYDNEY.

12/12/40.

Sir,

I would ask you to please take note of the following statement concerning you personally which was unanimously voted by the general meeting of the Alliance Francáise on the 6th instant....

The members of the Alliance Francaise, united together in a general meeting decided to take away from M. Jean Tremoulet, Consul General of France, his title of Honorary President because of the indifference and negligence which he has shewn towards their association since his arrival in Australia.

C O P Y.

From :- E. Doucet,
President of the Alliance Francaise, Sydney,

To :- Marshal Petain.

Dated 21/1/41.

Sydney,

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter which was sent to M. Jean Tremoulet by the Alliance Francaise of Sydney,

M. Jean Tremoulet, whom I had to advise of the unanimous vote of the general meeting of the Alliance Francaise of which I am the President, has made this a pretext to exercise mean vengeance against me personally He refuses to pay me my returned soldier's pension in spite of the order which he recived to this effect and he is illegally withholding the sum which was sent him for this purpose.

M. Jean Tremoulet pretends to see in the simple statement which I made to him, a hostile attitude towards your Government; that is an entirely gratuitous and false interpretation.

The measure taken against M. Jean Tremoulet is only aimed at him personally and not at his position.

Yours etc.
(E.Doucet).

C O P Y.

From :- ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, Sydney,

To :- MARSHAL PETAIN, Vichy.

Dated 20th January 1941.

Dear Sir,

As monsieur Jean Tremoulet has advised you of the decision of the Alliance Francaise and of the Returned Soldiers to ask him to retire from the position of Honorary President of their respective societies, and as M. Tremoulet has doubtless added some comments of his own, we wish to set out the r asons which forced us to take this measure.

From the moment of his arrival in Australia M. Tremoulet alienated the sympathies of the oldest and most respected French residents of Sydney by treating their best intentioned advances with rudeness.

He then took a sadistic pleasure in trying to set French people against each other by gossip and calumnies. In his own office he considered it necessary once to call the police to protect him against his subordinates, who, outraged by his underhand and provocative acts had rebelled against him.

The French people recognise that the Consul General, as well as each one of themselves, has the right to hold a personal opinion, but is it good policy to proclaim this opinion with and without reason when it is systematically hostile to the country to which the consul is accredited to protect the interests of his nationals?

After many efforts and much patience to endeavour to put up with this clumsy and evil consul, the French colony resolved within the narrow limits in which it could be done, to do without his services.

M. Jean Tremoulet's conduct appears all the more unworthy as his immediate predecessors were in their high positions respected and loved by all their subordinates, and held in high esteem by all their friends of France and the Governement of this country.

If the Alliance Francaise and the Returned Soldiers had foreseen that the British Government and Australia would withdraw the exequatur from M. Jean Tremoulet a few days after their deliberations they would obviously have abstained from making this gesture which the fortuitous coincidence of events makes untimely.

Yours etc.

(E. Doucet)
President.

A.A. Form A. 57.
(Reprinted November, 1940.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Receipt for SECRET Documents.

Issued to C.L.O. External Affairs *Date* 31. 1. 1941.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Copy No. ..... of Secret Document

C/H 4933 and attachment

(*Signed*) W R Hodgson

(*Appointment*) Lieut

Date .....

NOTES.

1. ~~THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THIS FORM.~~
2. The officer responsible for the safe custody of the document will sign the receipt.
3. THE RECIPIENT OF THE SECRET DOCUMENT MENTIONED ABOVE WILL ACCOUNT FOR IT ANNUALLY ON THE RETURN OF SECRET DOCUMENTS. (STRIKE OUT THIS NOTE IF NOT APPLICABLE.)
4. This Document supersedes ....., copies of which will be destroyed by fire and a certificate of destruction rendered to the address shown below.

(To be completed and original returned immediately in a single unregistered envelope).

To CONTROLLER OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP Victoria Barracks Melbourne

(*Head-quarters Issuing Document.*)

D.64/6.40.—7007. By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

A.A. Form A. 57.
(Reprinted November, 1940.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Receipt for SECRET Documents.

Issued to C.I.O. Exchange Affairs *Date* 31. 1. 1941.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Copy No. ——— of Secret Document

C/H 1908 and attachment

(*Signed*) .....

(*Appointment*) .....

Date .....

NOTES.

1. ~~THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THIS FORM.~~
2. The officer responsible for the safe custody of the document will sign the receipt.
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To CONTROLLER OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP Victoria Barracks Melbourne

(*Head-quarters Issuing Document.*)

D.64/6.40.—7007. By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

Tremoulet re money.

1. not enemy power.

2. ~~Apart~~ French Francs. No expenses etc.
~~40 000~~ 2091 dollars expenses for travelling
then can fix up.
may be held up.

~~129 - 40 000~~
~~£333~~
~~100~~
1330

Fares here + seas. expenses
also 2091 dollars already at my ac.
also francs
a cq from bank for francs
— for dollars

3 / 2091
730

3. Furniture heavy ab might make a bit more.
£100 pr co

19 ft

Taking bulk of furniture, like to pass & send to U.S.A.
Car has been sold

Bookings ~~Hots~~ Jap ship. more advisable to go to U.S.
no instructions

T.G. 41. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT. No. .....

CASH REGISTER

Not sent, as Tremoulet telephoned me — I informed him I would see him & discuss with him tomorrow. 5/2

TELEGRAM

This message is presented for transmission subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.

AFFIX STAMPS HERE

Ordinary rate telegram charges: For 16 words or less, including the address and signature: Interstate, 1s. 4d. Within the State, 15 miles radius, 9d. Beyond 15 miles radius, 1s. Each additional word in all cases, 1d.

Sch. C.1958.—11/1937.

Words .....
Charge .....
Time .....
By .....
Remarks .....

The address must contain all information necessary to ensure delivery.

TO J. TREMOULET
CARE CONSULATE-GENERAL FOR FRANCE
341 GEORGE STREET,
SYDNEY.

For Office Use Only

Sent at .....
Ch'nl No. .....
By .....

REFERENCE	MY	LETTER	THIRTIETH	JANUARY
ADVICE	HAS	BEEN	RECEIVED	THAT
YOU	HAVE	BOOKED	PASSAGE	ON
VESSEL	LEAVING	SHORTLY	(STOP)	GLAD
IF	YOU	WOULD	ADVISE	YOUR
INTENTIONS	AS	SOON	AS	POSSIBLE.

A REPLY PAID TELEGRAM
is a courteous means of ensuring
A PROMPT ANSWER
[Please Turn Over]

FROM SECRETARY, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

The sender's signature and address should be written on the back of this Form if such particulars are not to be telegraphed.

7063.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS, SOCIAL MESSAGES, MOTHERS' DAY REMEMBRANCES,

as well as EASTER, CHRISTMAS *and* NEW YEAR GREETINGS,

are issued on attractively coloured and appropriately designed telegram forms

WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE.

You may lodge your message at any TELEGRAPH OFFICE, using the usual telegram form, or telephone it to "TELEGRAMS," indicating that the message is to be issued on an ornamental form.

NOTE.—The standard time for the Eastern States of Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania) is half an hour in advance of the standard time for South Australia and two hours in advance of the standard time for Western Australia.

Sender's Name and Address (if not for transmission):—

.....

.....

Honorably France-Sydney Position of J Hemoulet
~~Defence Censorship~~

EMO/O

1/9/17

-3FEB 1941

TELEPHONES:
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. C/H.497

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

30th January 1941.

C.P. (Department of External Affairs).

-3FEB 1941

FRENCH CONSULAR TELEGRAMS

In answer to your letter of 23/1/41, I am informed by the District Censor, Sydney, that the C.P. & T.C. forwarded you "a translation that covered the two cables."

I regret I am not very well informed on this matter, as the C.P. & T.C. was in Sydney at the time he wrote to you.

L.C. Overton

Deputy Controller of Postal
and Telegraph Censorship.

31st January, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to:

The Secretary,
Department of the Treasury.

With reference to previous correspondence regarding M. Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, I forward herewith for your information and necessary action copies of correspondence between this Department and M. Tremoulet.

I forward also copy of a memorandum which I have addressed to the Department of the Army on the matter.

Secretary.

4/2

W.

WAW.MS

Secret

A.C.T., 31st January, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to -

The Secretary,
Department of the Army.

With reference to your SM.1064 of 28th January, 1941, regarding M. Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, I forward herewith for your information and necessary action copies of a letter dated 7th January from M. Tremoulet to the Department and of my reply thereto dated 30th January.

In connection with the question of funds and furniture, it recently came to the Minister's notice that M. Tremoulet had been buying up antique articles. (Personally I regard this information as not altogether reliable, as it came from M. Brenac who is intensely hostile to M. Tremoulet.) It is possible that his intention might be to avoid the restrictions regarding the withdrawal of funds by taking his furniture and possessions with him. In this connection you will note the suggestion in the last paragraph of my letter. In regard to furniture, it is the intention of the Commonwealth Government that Tremoulet shall not be permitted to take with him any heavy furniture.

A copy of the correspondence has also been sent to the Department of the Treasury for appropriate action in conjunction with the Eastern Command.

WRH

Secretary.

30th January 1941.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter to me of 7th January 1941 and our conversations in Sydney regarding your departure from Australia, I should be glad if you would let me know as soon as possible your intentions in regard to route and date of departure.

In the meantime the points raised in your letter have received consideration. The first query raised by you relates to the types of documents which the Commonwealth Government would not wish you to take out of the country, and in reply I would state that only such documents and papers as are of a purely personal nature should be taken by you.

As to the money which you have in Australia, the Commonwealth Government has decided that it cannot see its way to permit you to take out of the country a greater sum than is reasonably necessary to provide for your journey back to France. Further, in view of the present necessity to conserve dollar exchange in this country the Commonwealth Government feels it necessary to insist upon the prepayment in Australia as far as possible of fares in connection with the journey. I would be glad, therefore, if you would consult direct on this question with the Commonwealth Bank which is aware of the decision of the Government.

So far as a safe conduct is concerned, a document of this nature can be supplied if you consider it necessary. The issue of such a document would not require a specified route to be followed.

I note your intentions to dispose of your car and furniture. This course would be reasonable and leave only your personal effects to be taken with you from Australia.

Yours faithfully,

W.R.H.

M. J.Trémoulet,
French Consulate-General,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

PWE/OM

Consuls France at Sydney. 1/9/17

22 JAN 1941

TELEPHONES:
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

No. C/H.4763

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

18th January 1941.

C.L.O. (External Affairs),
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

FRENCH NATIONALS

I attach copy of translations of telegrams from Presidents of the Alliance Francais, Sydney, and the Returned Soldiers' League of France, Sydney, both addressed to Marshal Petain of Vichy, released by District Censor, 2nd Military District, for transmission on my instructions, and in anticipation of approval being given thereto by the Comptroller-General of Trade and Customs, under the Trading with the Enemy Act, which has been applied for.

P.W. Ethison
Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

seen by Col. Hodgson
& Mr. Hood of T&Cod.
raised no objections by
this Dept.
20.1.41
AMM

29

W aw

TRANSLATION OF TELEGRAM.

From DUCET
PRESIDENT
ALLIANCE FRANCAIS
SYDNEY

To MARSHAL PETAIN
VICHY

ON THE 6TH DECEMBER THE ALLIANCE FRANCAIS IN GENERAL MEETING PASSED THE FOLLOWING UNANIMOUS VOTE. THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE FRANCAIS UNITED IN GENERAL MEETING DECIDE TO DECLARE MONSIEUR JEAN TREMOULET CONSUL GENERAL DEPRIVED OF HIS TITLE OF HONORARY PRESIDENT FOR THE INDIFFERENCE AND NEGLIGENCE OF WHICH HE HAS GIVEN PROOF TOWARDS THE ASSOCIATION SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA. LETTER FOLLOWS.

(SGD.) DUCET

TRANSLATION OF TELEGRAM.

From FLIPO
PRESIDENT
RETURNED SOLDIERS LEAGUE
OF FRANCE

To MARSHAL PETAIN
VICHY

WE CONSIDER IT OUR DUTY TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE FOLLOWING DECISION. THE OLD SOLDIERS OF FRANCE IN SYDNEY AUSTRALIA ASSEMBLED IN GENERAL MEETING ON THE 7TH DECEMBER 1940 DECIDE TO SUPPRESS THE OFFICE OF HONORARY PRESIDENCY UNTIL FRANCE IS REPRESENTED IN AUSTRALIA BY A CONSUL GENERAL WHO DOES NOT DECLARE SENTIMENTS OPPOSITE TO FRENCH INTERESTS AND FAVOURABLE TO THOSE POWERS HAVING FOUGHT OR STILL FIGHTING ~~FOR~~ FRANCE. MONSIEUR JEAN TREMOULET NOT FULFILLING THESE CONDITIONS IS DEPRIVED OF HIS HONORARY PRESIDENCY. MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

(SGD.) FLIPO

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

Canberra, 31st January, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to:

The Secretary,
Department of the Army.

With reference to your SM.1064 of 28th January, 1941, regarding M. Tremoulet, former French Consul-General, I forward herewith for your information and necessary action copies of a letter dated 7th January from Tremoulet to the Department and of my reply thereto dated 30th January.

In connection with the question of funds and furniture, it recently came to the Minister's notice that M. Tremoulet had been buying up antique ~~furniture and other~~ articles. It is possible that his intention might be to avoid the restrictions regarding the withdrawal of funds by taking his furniture and possessions with him. In this connection you will note the suggestion in the last paragraph of my letter. In regard to furniture, it is the intention of the Commonwealth Government that Tremoulet shall not be permitted to take with him any heavy furniture. WRM

A copy of the correspondence has also been sent to the Department of the Treasury for appropriate action in conjunction with the Eastern Command.

W R Hodgson
Secretary.

(Personally I regard this information as not altogether reliable, as it came from Mr Brenac who is intensely hostile to Mr Tremoulet.)

~~Jan. Draft~~
Sir P Mis

With refce ~~etc.~~ to telegram No. 108 from the D.O. regarding ~~the request~~ funds for the maintenance of French Consular establishments in the Dominions, I have to inform you that so far as the Com. Govt is concerned, no obstacles have ~~been~~ at any time been placed in the way of the functioning of any of the consulates in Australia. ~~[illegible]~~

Consuls Francais
Sydney.

17 JAN 1941

DRAFT TELEGRAM TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, LONDON.

DATE:

NO.

Tremoulet, ex-French Consul-General, proposes to leave Australia about end of this month for France via America. He desires to take all his private monies amounting to £5,000, 2091 United States dollars and 30,000 French francs. ~~In view of his past attitude~~ We are not disposed to permit him to take any more than reasonably necessary for journey back but would be glad if you would ascertain early as possible from United Kingdom authorities information as to treatment accorded to British Consular representatives who were required to leave French territories.

Copy/jr

Consulat France at Sydney.

17 JAN 1941

Consulat General de France

Sydney.

7th January, 1941.

Colonel Hodgson,
Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Colonel Hodgson,

Although I have not yet received any instructions from my Government about my departure from Australia (for recent cables, Nos. 125 to 128, have not reached me and may have contained the said instructions), I have booked accommodation provisionally on the Dutch plane leaving for IndoChina on January 31st and on a Japanese ship leaving for Manila about February 1st. From Indochina it is likely that I shall go to France via America through the Philippine Islands or Japan, in which case my housekeeper Mlle. Marthe Despeyroux, aged 64, of French nationality, would go direct from here to the United States, probably by the first American ship leaving in February, with my heavy luggage, and wait for me there. This is necessarily very vague, but I should like, with the kind help of the Commonwealth Government to prepare for my departure, more especially to commence packing. I have spoken to Mr. Mitchell, the Collector of Customs, who I think would like to send a member of his staff to supervise the packing. I have not the slightest objection to this, as long as it guarantees me against any subsequent opening of the cases on the wharf or elsewhere, with possible damage to my furniture and china. May I suggest in this respect that the person chosen should understand and perhaps speak French, as my housekeeper, who will help with the packing, knows very little English. Could I also be told beforehand what especially, perhaps in the way of documents, the Commonwealth Government might not wish me to take out of this country, so that everything can be smoothly carried out.

12/3 bought 250

2090

As to the money I have now in Australia, as the result of my savings on my salary during three and a half years, it amounts to approximately £A4,000, to which may be added another £1,000 if I sell my car and a few pieces of heavy antique furniture which I should prefer not to take away, so that it may altogether be £4,500 or at the most £5,000, plus a credit at the French Bank in Sydney of 2091.43 U.S.A. dollars and another credit of 30,000 French francs. I understood from the Commonwealth bank that as the franc is not quoted in Australia I could not be provided with francs, but that there would be no material difficulty in letting me have my money in dollars. This is , of course, the only currency with which I should not have any trouble in providing for the needs of a possibly long and uncertain journey back to France.

I understood from a statement made by Sir Frederick Stewart, in Parliament I think, that I should be given a safe conduct. I trust that the issue of such a document would not require a specified route to be followed. No that I should not like to meet the Australian Government in this respect, but because I really do not know what the possibilities will be for me once I have started.

Trusting that the foregoing is sufficiently comprehensive to enable the Commonwealth Government to take the necessary steps for my journey back, but remaining at your disposal if you should wish any point to be clarified.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Jean Trémoulet.

France at Sydney

WHITEHALL 5422

6, RICHMOND TERRACE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S. W. I.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

H.804. 13th December, 1940.

MEMORANDUM TO:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

French Consul-General, Sydney.

With reference to your telegram No.183 and my reply No.1083, the following is a copy of the insertion in the London Gazette of 10th December:-

Exequatur of Monsieur Jean Gabrielle Henry Marie Trémoulet, a French citizen, as Consul-General of the French Republic at Sydney, Australia, with jurisdiction in the Fiji Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands and the Solomon Islands has been revoked, and the official recognition accorded to him in his consular capacity has accordingly been withdrawn as from 5th December, 1940.

Alfred Stirling

R/S CTM

Consuls France - Sydney

DRAFT TELEGRAM TO GOVERNOR OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, SINGAPORE.

Date: 29/1/41

No.

Your telegram of 26th January. Our information is that Puaux is not taking up consular appointment but joining Free French Movement in French Oceania. Tremoulet will be granted visa and safe conduct.

Sent by P.M's Dept 29/1/41

Telegram of 26th Jan.

Your — . Our information is that Paux is not taking up consular appointment but joining Free French Movement in French Oceania. Tremoulet will be granted visa & safe conduct.

2 copies.

WGW
for Sec of State
approved by
Interior
29.1.41

Reply Mr. Peters & he approved of above reply being sent
29-1-41
AWM

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

CABLEGRAM.

I. XXXXXX 1277

W1 Via Imperial 262/50

SECRET

DECYPHER FROM

DATED 26th January, 1941
3-11 p.m.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,
SINGAPORE.

RECEIVED 27th January, 1941

Addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, repeated to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The French Consul-General here has applied for permission for Tremoulet, French Consul-General at Sydney, Australia, and Paux, French Vice-Consul there, to pass through Singapore on their way to Paris and Canton respectively.

Are you granting visas?

COPY - MINISTER & DEPT. INTERIOR (ADVICE)
MINISTER & DEPT. E.A. (ATTENTION)
27.1.41.

THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

REFERRED.

SECRETARY

COPY. CJC.DS. Consul France Sydney H.33/1/5.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Premier's Department,
SYDNEY,
23rd January, 1941.

29 JAN 1941

41/188,

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd January regarding the withdrawal of the recognition of M. Jean Tremoulet as Consul-General of France, I now forward herewith copy of a reprint from the New South Wales Government Gazette of the 17th instant containing a notification of such withdrawal so far as this State is concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J. W. FERGUSON.

Under Secretary.

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

ACKNOWLEDGED - with thanks.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs.

Referred, by direction. A copy has not been sent to any other Department.

J Strahan

Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department.

28 JAN 1941

[*Published in Government Gazette No.* 6 *of* 17*th January,* 1941.]

---

(168) Premier's Department,
Sydney, 14th January, 1941.

IN view of the revocation by the Commonwealth Government of the Exequatur issued in favour of M. Jean Tremoulet and the withdrawal of his official recognition as Consul-General of France for the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency the Governor has now approved of the withdrawal of such recognition so far as the State of New South Wales is concerned.

ALEX. MAIR, Premier.

TELEPHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

No. Sm. 1064

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

28 JAN 1941

MEMORANDUM for :

Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

SECRET

M. TREMOULET - FORMER FRENCH CONSUL-GENERAL

With reference to your teleprinter message No. 16 of 2 Jan. 41 regarding the prospective departure of Tremoulet for Indo-China on 6 Jan., I desire to advise you that information has been received to the effect that he has not adhered to this arrangement, but changed his mind and now intends to return to France via the U.S.A.

Up to 15th January no application had been made for travel facilities and it would appear that Tremoulet is in no hurry to leave Australia.

In view of the previous conduct of this person, it is considered that his continued presence in Australia is undesirable and anything which might be done in the way of ensuring his early departure would be appreciated by this Department.

Would you kindly furnish me with your observations in this connection.

(J. T. FITZGERALD)
Secretary.

Consulate France Sydney

EMO/CRJ

1.19.17

28 JAN 1941

TELEPHONES:
MXY 440.
[redacted]AL 7185

No. C/H 4866

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

25th January, 1941.

C.L.O. (External Affairs)
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

CONSULAR TELEGRAMS

I thank you for your letter of 23.1.41. I have requested the District Censor, Sydney to forward me a copy of the "other" telegram mentioned therein. I can find no record of it on my files.

I will forward you a copy on receipt from Sydney.

R. C. Onslow.

Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

Consulate France Sydney

CTM/ra

23rd January, 1941.

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship,
Department of the Army.

Thank you for your memorandum (CH/E.5) of 22nd January, 1941, with which you forwarded copies of three telegrams relating to the affairs of the French Consulates.

It is noted that the telegram from the French Consulate, Sydney, regarding the Commercial Attache refers to telegrams Nos. 1 and 2 from Vichy. I assume that one of these is the telegram dated 18th January, 1941, which you forwarded to me by your memorandum CH/E, of 21st January, 1941, but I do not think that we have received the other. If this is so and a copy is available I should be glad to receive it.

W. C. W.
C.L.O. (A)
per army

PWE/EW

TELEPHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

No. CH/E. 5

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

22nd January, 1941.

C.L.O. (External Affairs),
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

FRENCH CONSULATE.

For your information I attach:-

(1) Copy Tg. No.3 of 19/1/41 from Diplomatie, Vichy to French Consul, Sydney.

(2) Copy Tg. No.4 of 19/1/41 from Diplomatie, Vichy to French Consul, Sydney.

(3) Copy text of reply approved of by District Censor, 2 M.D. for transmission.

Q.D.C.H.
Send W R H
- Q.D.C.H.
copies to minister
23.1.41

P. W. Ellison
Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

FROM: DIPLOMATIE
VICHY.

TO: FRENCH CONSUL,
SYDNEY.

DATED AT VICHY: 19/1/41.

RECEIVED SYDNEY: 20/1/41.

PURPORT DISCLOSED TO CONSULATE: 21/1/41.

TRANSLATION:-

3. I RECEIVED ON 3rd. JANUARY YOUR REPLY TO MY TELEGRAM No.130. YOU ARE CALLED BY ORDER TO FRANCE AND SHOULD HAND OVER THE SERVICE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO M. LANCIAL. CLEMENTEL WILL TAKE OVER THE CHANCELLERY OF MELBOURNE. M. PUAUX AND YOU WILL TAKE YOURSELVES TOGETHER TO SINGAPORE WHERE YOU WILL PLACE BEFORE M. PINGAUD YOUR DIFFERENCES. M. PUAUX WILL THEN REJOIN CANTON AND YOU YOURSELF WILL RETURN TO FRANCE.

FROM: DIPLOMATIE,
VICHY.

TO: FRENCH CONSUL,
SYDNEY.

LODGED AT VICHY: 19/1/41.

RECEIVED SYDNEY: 20/1/41.

PURPORT DISCLOSED TO CONSULATE: 21/1/41

TRANSLATION:-

4. IN REPLY TO YOUR TELEGRAM No.2 PLEASE COMPLY WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY MY TELEGRAM No.3.

Pol

FROM - FRENCH CONSUL, SYDNEY.

TO - DIPLOMATIE, VICHY.

I REFER TO YOUR TELEGRAMS NOS. 1 and 2 OF THE 18th JANUARY WHICH HAVE BEEN DULY COMMUNICATED TO MY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE. ON THIS OCCASION I FEEL I OUGHT TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT HAD I BEEN ABLE TO SEND TO THE DEPARTMENT CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS ON THE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE THESE REPORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY EULOGISTIC.

Informed Mr. Cumming that this Dept did not object to decoded of the telegram
23.1.41
CMM

PWE/EC

Consuls France at Sydney

21 JAN 1941

1/9/17

SECRET

SECRET

TELEPHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

No C/H 4738

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

17th January, 1941

C.L.O (External Affairs)
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

FRENCH CONSULATE

The following is the translation of a telegram sent by Mons. Tremoulet to the Vichy Government since the Secretary of your Department phoned the District Censor, Sydney on 14/1/41.

"The Australian Government has just informed me that their Minister at Washington is going to advise our Ambassador of the withdrawal of my exaequatur in order to enable you to make a decision with regard to me and to cable me your instructions. With reference to my previous communications I suggest that if you decide to recall me or to appoint me to another post M.Lancial should take charge and consequently the Melbourne Office should be temporarily closed."

WRM

F.W. Ecklson

Controller of Postal and
Telegraph Censorship.

DRAFT DESPATCH TO AUSTRALIAN MINISTER, WASHINGTON.

My dear Minister,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter (Personal and Confidential No. 9/41) of 1st April, 1941, reporting your informal interview with the French Ambassador during which the latter handed you a written protest concerning the arrest in Australia of M. Trémoulet.

In amplification of my telegrams 430 and 438, I am enclosing copies of the correspondence between myself and M. Lancial on this matter.

While I feel that it was unfortunate that M. Trémoulet was arrested pratically on the eve of his departure from Australia, I ~~am unable to~~ can add ~~anything~~ little to what I have already conveyed to M. Lancial in my correspondence with him. The Commonwealth Government does not propose to make any apology and I think that in all the circumstances the best course ~~is to send no reply to the protest if it can be avoided~~ would be to reply on the lines already taken by me

~~Should the French Ambassador raise the matter with you again, I suggest that you take the line which I took in my letter of 27th February, namely, that after the withdrawal of his exequatur, M. Trémoulet ceased to be recognised as a Consul-General by the Commonwealth Government and consequently could not be regarded as having any official status and that the Commonwealth Government considered that there was no justification for the action in the broad national interests.~~

Accordingly I enclose a draft of a reply which might be handed to the French Ambassador.

~~You might point out to the French Ambassador that despite~~ You will observe that the only additional matter contained in the draft is that after the withdrawal of his exequatur in December, 1940, M. Trémoulet continued in fact to conduct the affairs of the Consulate General until February. ~~and~~ This fact caused considerable embarrassment and difficulty to the Commonwealth Government which received representations from various sources, both private and official, for his removal from the country.

Yrs

DRAFT.

2

REPLY BY HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTER AT WASHINGTON TO NOTE OF PROTEST OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

With reference to the French Ambassador's note of protest dated 31st March 1941 concerning the detention of M. Tremoulet, former Consul-General of France in Sydney, His Majesty's Australian Minister has been instructed by his Government to inform M. Henry-Haye that ~~(His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia has given careful)~~ consideration has been given to the representations made on behalf of the French Government.

The Commonwealth Government ~~is unable to add anything~~ can add little to the reply which has already been given to the French Consul at Melbourne in reply to representations made by him in the matter in February last. The Commonwealth Government, for its part, can only repeat that it was fully justified in the action it took in the broad national interest, quite apart from other grounds. M. Tremoulet's continued presence in Australia long after the withdrawal of his exequatur was not only causing considerable embarrassment but also resulting in dissensions in the community at a time when unity for the prosecution of the war effort was an over-riding consideration. In this connection the Commonwealth Government would observe that despite the withdrawal of his exequatur in December 1940 M. Tremoulet continued, in fact, to conduct the affairs of the Consulate-General until his departure from the country.

/In

In all the circumstances and in view of the substantial doubt which had arisen as to whether M.Tremoulet intended to leave Australia, it was decided that he should be detained until he could leave the country. Upon receiving satisfactory assurances regarding M. Trémoulet's departure from the French Consul the Commonwealth Government immediately released M.Tremoulet.

While noting that the French Government is not desirous of opening legal discussion upon the extent of personal immunities of consuls, the Commonwealth Government, for its part reiterates that concessions and privileges granted to consuls in Australia are granted on a basis of reciprocity and purely as a matter of courtesy. The French Government will (appreciate) be well aware that such concessions and privileges are not founded on the well-established principles of international law ~~relating~~ pertaining to the diplomatic sphere. ~~in regard to privileges and immunities of diplomatic personages~~. In any event, after the withdrawal of his exequatur M.Tremoulet could not be regarded as having any official status in relation to the Commonwealth Government.

The Commonwealth Government has already expresses its regret at the action which, unfortunately, it was forced to take, and can only reiterate the hope that the traditional friendly relations between France and Australia ~~would~~ will remain unaffected by this incident.

Mr. Richard Casey takes this opportunity of assuring M. Henry-Haye of his highest consideration.

INTERNMENT OF M. TREMOULET, CONSUL-GENERAL FOR FRANCE.

1. Attached hereto is copy of letter dated 24th February from the Acting Consul-General of France, requesting suitable apologies and reparation for the internment of M. Tremoulet by the Commonwealth Government on 22nd February.

2. The facts of this case briefly are as follows:-

After the defection of France, diplomatic relations between France and England were severed, but all Dominion and Colonial Governments allowed French Consular jurisdiction to remain. Canada even retains diplomatic relations and there is still a French Minister at Ottawa.

In Australia, the activities and talk of M. Tremoulet, the Consul-General, were prejudicing the cause of the Free French movement in Australia, he was causing dissension in the French community, and his attitude was generally anti-British.

As a consequence, Cabinet decided to recommend to the King that his exequatur be withdrawn, and on 19th December the Commonwealth Gazette notified he was no longer recognised as Consul-General in Australia.

3. It is to be noted no request was made to M. Tremoulet nor to the Vichy Government for his actual departure from Australia, but he was informed this would be advisable in the circumstances.

He requested the Vichy Government for instructions, but apparently owing to difficulties of communication these were not forthcoming until the Commonwealth Government itself used the channel of French Embassy and Australian Legation, Washington.

4. In the meantime, M. Tremoulet prepared for early departure from Australia. This Department, in close co-operation with Military Intelligence, the Commonwealth Bank and the Treasury made decisions in regard to his bank balances, payment of fares, and furniture to be taken.

Arrangements for his departure to America March had all been completed, he had purchased his fares, been assured of safe conduct and had handed over the Consulate-General to his successor, M. Lancial.

5. Without reference to the Minister for External Affairs or the Military Intelligence, War Cabinet decided that M. Tremoulet should be interned until his departure from Australia.

Presumably it acted on some fresh evidence of his activities, which must have been considered so grave as to justify his detention a fortnight before his departure, although all the available evidence of the previous six months in the possession of the Departments did not warrant so grave a step.

In view of the requests of the British Government to adopt a moderate policy towards France, to do nothing which would weaken the determination of the French to resist further German demands, I immediately raised the question of M. Tremoulet's internment with the Acting Prime Minister and the Minister for the Army. As a result, he was released from internment on the 24th February.

6. In regard to the request for redress by the Acting Consul-General on behalf of the French Government, it can be said that Consuls have not the same immunity in international law as diplomatists and their staffs. By recognised custom and reciprocity they are, however, granted safe conduct, concessions and privileges pertaining to the diplomatic sphere.

We had ample evidence on which to intern certain of the German and Italian Consuls, but they were all allowed to depart from Australia without the indignity of detention or internment.

As I see it, the order of the War Cabinet amounts to an act of State, which may have far reaching consequences, but which no doubt can be justified in national interests on the evidence before it.

In the circumstances, I can only suggest a reply on the lines of the attached draft, for any apology or reparation following on the quick release, would be an admission of unjustifiable action.

Copy/jr

Consul France-Sydney
Tremoulet

Department of External Affai
Canberra, A.C.T.
30th January, 1941.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter to me of 7th January, 1941, and our conversations in Sydney regarding your departure from Australia, I should be glad if you would let me know as soon as possible your intentions in regard to route and date of departure.

In the meantime the points raised in your letter have received consideration. The first query raised by you relates to the types of documents which the Commonwealth Governmen would not wish you to take out of the country, and in reply I would state that only such documents and papers as are of a purely personal nature should be taken by you.

As to the money which you have in Australia, the Commonwealth Government has decided that it cannot see its way to permit you to take out of the country a greater sum than is reasonably necessary to provide for your journey back to France. Further, in view of the present necessity to conserve dollar exchange in this country the Commonwealth Government feels it necessary to insist upon the prepayment in Australia as far as possible of fares in connection with the journey. I would be glad, therefore, if you would consult direct on this question with the Commonwealth Bank which is aware of the decision of the Government.

So far as a safe conduct is concerned, a document of this nature can be supplied if you consider it necessary. The issue of such a document would not require a specified route to be followed.

I note your intentions to dispose of your car and furniture. This course would be reasonable and leave only your personal effects to be taken with you from Australia.

Yours faithfully,

W.R. Hodgson.

M. J.Trémoulet,
French Consulate-General,
341 George Street,
SYDNEY.

Consulat General de France

Sydney.

-7FEB 1941

7th January, 1941.

Colonel Hodgson,
Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Colonel Hodgson,

Although I have not yet received any instructions from my Government about my departure from Australia (for recent cables, Nos. 125 to 128, have not reached me and may have contained the said instructions), I have booked accommodation provisionally on the Dutch plane leaving for Indo-China on January 31st and on a Japanese ship leaving for Manila about February 1st. From Indo-China it is likely that I shall go to France via America through the Philippine Islands or Japan, in which case my housekeeper Mlle. Marthe Despeyroux, aged 64, of French nationality, would go direct from here to the United States, probably by the first American ship leaving in February with my heavy luggage, and wait for me there. This is necessarily very vague, but I should like , with the kind help of the Commonwealth Government to prepare for my departure, more especially to commence packing. I have spoken to Mr. Mitchell, the Collector of Customs, who I think would like to send a member of his staff to supervise the packing. I have not the slightest objection to this, as long as it guarantees me against any subsequent opening of the cases on the wharf or elsewhere, with possible damage to my furniture and china. May I suggest in this respect that the person chosen should understand and perhaps speak French, as my housekeeper, who will help with the packing, knows very little English. Could I also be told beforehand what especially, perhaps in the way of documents, the Commonwealth Government might wish me to take out of this country, so that everything can be smoothly carried out.

As to the money I have now Australia, as the result of my savings on my salary during three and a half years, it amounts to approximately £A4,000, to which may be added another £1,000 if I sell my car and a few pieces of heavy antique furniture which I should prefer not to take away, so that it may altogether be £4,500 or at the most £5,000, plus a credit at the French Bank in Sydney of 2091.43 U.S.A. dollars and another credit of 30,000 French francs. I understood from the Commonwealth Bank that as the franc is not quoted in Australia I could not be provided with francs, but that there would be not material difficulty in letting me have my money in dollars. This is, of course, the only currency with which I should not have any trouble in providing for the needs of a possibly long and uncertain journey back to France.

I understood from a statement made by Sir Frederick Stewart, in Parliament I think, that I should be given a safe conduct. I trust that the issue of such a document would not require a specified route to be followed. Not that I should not like to meet the Australian Government in this respect, but because I really do not know what the possibilities will be for me once I have started.

Trusting that the foregoing is sufficiently comprehensive to enable the Commonwealth Government to take the necessary steps for my journey back, but remaining at your disposal if you should wish any point to be clarified.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Jean Trémoulet

WRH.js

FOR THE MINISTER.

Departure of former French Consul-General, M. Tremoulet.

(1) On 30th January, M. Tremoulet, former French Consul General, was asked by letter to indicate as soon as possible his intentions in regard to his departure from Australia. He was also informed inter alia that he would not be permitted to take out of the country a greater sum than reasonably necessary to provide for his journey back to France. In addition, he was told that the Commonwealth Government felt it necessary to insist upon the prepayment in Australia, as far as possible, of fares in connection with the journey. In regard to furniture, a hint was given that it would be reasonable for M. Tremoulet to dispose of his car and furniture as this would leave only his personal effects to be taken by him from Australia.

(2) The Consul-General telephoned the Department this morning (5th February) and raised questions regarding his private means and furniture. On the first point he stated that he was disappointed that he would not be permitted to take at least his United States dollars and French francs which he had in credit in the French Bank in Sydney. He was unable to see why he should be treated like the Italian consuls who were enemy consuls. He requested, therefore, that he be permitted to take with him not only enough for travelling expenses, but also the dollars and francs. In regard to furniture, he stated that he had not sold more than a few pieces and wished to take it with him to the United States.

(3) The External Affairs Officer in London, in reply to an enquiry by this Department, advised that the United Kingdom authorities were in agreement with the view of the Commonwealth Government that the Consul-General should not be allowed to take more Australian pounds than reasonably necessary for the journey and that they would be inclined to let him take the French francs as well. British Consuls-General formerly in Algiers, Tunis and Casablanca, were permitted by the French authorities to take their bank balances with them, but the position was different as they had no large amounts in French territory. French Consuls in the United Kingdom were permitted to take sufficient sterling for the journey and their French francs. Having regard to all the circumstances, a reasonable course would seem to be to permit Tremoulet to prepay his fares as far as possible from his Australian funds, and then to take with him his dollars and francs, the equivalent of £850, in cash. He has in fact £A.4,000, plus £600 in dollars and £250 in French francs.

(4) Regarding furniture, the External Affairs Officer advised that French consuls in the United Kingdom were, in one or two cases, permitted to take with them their wife's jewellery, but everything else was held. On this point, it is suggested that the Consul-General be permitted to take his furniture with him.

/M. Tremou

M. Tremoulet also advised that he had made a tentative booking on a Japanese ship but that he would now prefer to go by the next American boat. He stated that if the Commonwealth Government indicated that it would wish him to depart within a given time he would do so. It is suggested that M. Tremoulet should be informed that the Commonwealth Government desires him to leave Australia by the next American vessel.

5th February 1941.

WAW.GP

p/ Draft

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