



No. Sp. 2456

File No. 6-L M-40 Part

No. G. 450

O t t a w a,
May 22, 1945.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
File No.	6-LM-40	
Sub.	Chron	Filed

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note 3/16-m L/W. dated 12th May, 1945, with which you enclosed a letter addressed to the Spokesman of Camp 20 informing him in reply to his enquiry that your Consulate-General has no official confirmation of the reported death of Adolf HITLER.

Your letter has been sent forward today.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

for *A. Rennie*
Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

The Consul-General of Switzerland
in charge of German interests,
Sun Life Building,
Montreal, P.Q.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS	
File No.	6-LM-40
Sub.	Chron 18

Our file 6-LM-40

O t t a w a,
May 22, 1945.

To: The Department of National Defence, Army (POW)
O t t a w a.

I refer to your letter dated 9th May, 1945, file H.Q.S. 7236-16 PW(B), in which you advised this Department that the Spokesman of Camp 20 had requested that the Consul-General of Switzerland telegraph immediately as to whether there was official confirmation of the death of Adolf HITLER.

In this connection, I enclose a letter dated 12th May, 1945, addressed to the Spokesman of Camp 20 by the Consul-General and would be obliged if this were sent forward. You will note that the Consul-General informs the Spokesman that he has no official confirmation of the reported death of HITLER.

A. René

for

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

File	6-LM-46
Sub.	4 Chron. 18 Filed

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND
IN CANADA
IN CHARGE OF GERMAN INTERESTS.

3/16-m L/W

Montreal, May 12, 1945.

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23/5/45
m.b.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note G 426, dated May 10th concerning an enquiry from the Spokesman of Camp 20 with regard to the reported death of Adolf Hitler.

./.
./.
Please find enclosed my reply to the Spokesman, of which I attach a copy for your files. I would be much obliged if my communication could be sent forward.

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

Consul General of Switzerland.

Encl's.

The Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs,

O t t a w a .

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1945 MAY 19 AM 10 10

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

IN CANADA
CONFIDENTIAL - GÉNÉRAL DE SUISSE

OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

Dublin, 11th May, 1945.

AIRMAIL

No.52.

*original on
6-24-40*

EXTERNA
File No. 6-24-40
Sub. 6 Chron. 17 Filed

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of an interesting contrast in the reception by the Irish Press and public of the announcement of the deaths of President Roosevelt and of Herr Adolf Hitler.

2. The general public received the news of the death of the late President Roosevelt as though he had been a close and welcome personal friend. Few public men have so quietly and so thoroughly captured the affections of the Irish people. On all sides one heard expressions of distress and mourning.

The flags of all allied nations and those of the Irish State were at half mast on Friday and Saturday, 13th and 14th of April. The United States Legation, located in the Phoenix Park some distance from means of public transport, was inundated with persons who called to express their sense of personal loss as well as sympathy with the United States Minister, his wife and the people of the United States. The newspapers report that the Apostolic Nuncio, the Most Reverend Paschal Robinson; and the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Reverend John C. McQuaid, called in person, also His Grace, the Lord Archbishop of Dublin, Doctor Barton. The members of the Diplomatic Corps either visited the Legation personally or sent cards of condolence. Almost the entire personnel of the Government of Ireland called on the United States Minister during the day of April 13th. The published list included Mr. de Valera; Mr. S. T. O'Kelly, (Minister of Finance), and Mrs. O'Kelly; Mr. MacEntee (Minister for Local Government), and Mrs. MacEntee; Doctor Ryan (Minister for Agriculture); Mr. P.J. Little (Minister for Posts); Mr. Derrig (Minister for Education); Mr. Boland (Minister for Justice) and Mrs. Boland; Mr. Traynor (Minister for Defence); Mr. Moylan (Minister for Lands); Mr. Aiken (Minister for CoOrdination of Defensive Measures) and Mrs. Aiken. In addition, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman M. O'Sullivan, tendered sympathy.

The newspapers reported the death of the President in banner headlines and columns of details. Despite the meagre four pages of newspaper allowed by the small ration of newsprint, the Irish Press devoted 109 inches of space to the story, the Irish Times 107 inches and the Irish Independent 68 inches. All three dailies as well as provincial newspapers printed editorials eulogising the work and life of President Roosevelt. The following extracts give an impression of these:-

The Irish Press, 13th April, - "No American of to-day had the stature of that remarkable man.... the strength of his character was shown when having been struck down by infantile paralysis, he refused to allow this personal calamity to drive him from what he regarded as his mission of public service... he established the worker and the underprivileged in a position of security they had not known in the history of their country, and, finally, he brought into this war a nation.... whose vast resources were already partially mobilised to fulfil demands hitherto unknown to industry. The vigour of his leadership, his wide vision, together with the gay courage of his character, had made his fame known to every land; his death will bring the United States the sympathy of many millions of people throughout the world and, not least, the sympathy of Irishmen and women wherever they may be."

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The Irish Times, April 13th. "F.D. Roosevelt, one of the supreme leaders of the Second World War died yesterday..... His 'New Deal' was a challenge to American conservatism - to the falsely cherished traditions of 'big business' he had died as he had lived, honoured in varying, but always high, degree by men of every nation It has been said that Franklin Roosevelt was the greatest American since Abraham Lincoln; but he was something more. He was the first American since Woodrow Wilson who was a great citizen of the world and a great lover of humanity. His untimely death deprives the American people of an inspiring, as well as an inspired leader. It has deprived the civilized world of a man whose name will shine forever among the stars."

The Irish Independent, April 13th. ".....a great career has been brought to a sudden close. His name will live in history, high in the list of eminent statesmen whose achievements have left their mark not only in the progress of their own nations but also in international affairs he maintained a charming personality proving himself a fearless fighter and a gifted leader whose counsel will be sadly missed in the work of reconstruction that will strain the abilities of statesmen in the post-war years."

3. When the Dail met on the afternoon of April 13th Mr. de Valera at once moved the adjournment "as a mark of respect and sympathy with the American people on the death of their President... ..". Mr. de Valera continued "President Roosevelt will go down in history as one of the greatest of a long line of American Presidents with the unparalleled distinction of having been elected four times as head of the United States. That was the greatest tribute that could be paid to any man. It is also a measure of his loss. Personally I regard his death as a loss to the world, for I believe his whole career has shown that he could ultimately be depended upon when this war had ended to throw his great influence behind and devote his great energy to the establishment of a world organization which would be just, and which being just could hope to save humanity from recurring calamities like the present war." The Taoiseach concluded by expressing deep sympathy with the Roosevelt family.

General Mulcahy (F.G.) Leader of the Opposition - Associated himself with the resolution of sympathy and said, in part, - "We sympathise with humanity as a whole that, in such an hour for the world as this, such a striking loss should befall them."

Mr. Norton (Labour) "Even in a generation of great men, President Roosevelt was a giant among them....."

Mr. Donnellan (Farmers' Party) "I believe that he would have been responsible if he had lived, more than anybody else, for giving to this world the peace for which it has looked."

The motion to adjourn the Dail was taken in silence, all Deputies standing in their places.

4. In addition to the adjournment of the Dail, the sympathy of Ireland, was expressed in telegraphic messages from Mr. de Valera and Dr. Hyde, President of Ireland, to President Truman. The Irish President's messages read: "I have learned with profound regret of the death of President Roosevelt and offer you my deepest sympathy in the sorrow which has befallen you and the whole American people!" Mr. de Valera's message was: "On behalf of the Government of Dail Eireann and of the people of Ireland, I wish to express our deep sorrow at the death of President Roosevelt and our very great sympathy with his family and with the American people in the calamity which has befallen them. America has lost a great man and a noble leader. May God give solace and strength to his family to bear their great trial."

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5. On 14th April, the Dublin Daily newspapers again devoted much space to the news of Mr. Roosevelt's death, to reviewing the record of President Truman, and to matters relating to these two men. The Irish Press devoted 114 inches; the Irish Times, 123 inches; and the Irish Independent, 131 inches to such stories.

6. What of the reaction to the announced death of Herr Hitler! The public appeared to receive the news of the death of the German Fuehrer with some suspicion as to its accuracy but with no expression of regret if the report proved true.

So far as can be ascertained, no flag of any country, excepting that of Germany on the Office of the German Minister, was flown at half-mast... not even the Japanese. A small number of private persons was observed entering the German Minister's Office on the day of and the day subsequent to the announcement of Herr Hitler's death. It may be assumed that the majority of these were Germans who happen to be living in Ireland, and possibly included some of the many Germans interned here.

It is not known that any member of the Diplomatic Corps called on the German Minister to express sympathy but the Dublin newspapers of 3rd May 1945 carried the report that "The Taoiseach and Minister for External Affairs, Mr. de Valera, accompanied by the Secretary to the Department of External Affairs, Mr. J.P. Walshe, called on Doctor Eduard Hempel, the German Minister, last evening (2nd May) to express his condolence." On 4th May, 1945, it was announced that "Mr. McDunphy, Secretary to the President (of Ireland), called on the German Minister yesterday to express condolence on behalf of the President." It is not known that any other Minister or Officer of the Irish State made such a call.

7. The three principal Irish daily newspapers of 2nd May, 1945, gave banner headlines to the announcement of Hitler's death:-

The Irish Press - "Herr Hitler Killed in Berlin Battle".

The Irish Times - "Hitler's Death Announced in Berlin".

The Irish Independent - "Hitler Killed in Action".

None of these newspapers gave anything like as much space to the stories of Hitler's death and the record of his successor as they had given to the death of the late President of the United States and the record of Mr. Truman, the Irish Press printed but 54 inches, the Irish Times, 52½ inches, and the Irish Independent, 81 inches, of such matters.

The only important Dublin daily newspaper to carry an editorial on Herr Hitler was the Irish Times - its issue of 2nd May carried an editorial captioned "CURTAIN", and read in part:-

"Adolf Hitler is dead. This tremendous news was broadcast from Germany last night, and transcends everything else in importance.... (he) had an almost uncanny instinct for that mysticism which plays such a vital part in the German character, and it was this mystic quality that raised the Fuehrer to such a pinnacle of national hero-worship. Now that he is dead, he can have no heir....."

The Dublin newspapers of the following day, 3rd May, carried short inconspicuous stories of the flying of flags at half-mast in Lisbon and of the visit of Mr. de Valera to the German Minister in Dublin. The total space involved was - Irish Press, 2½ inches; Irish Times, 4½ inches; and the Irish Independent, 1½ inches.

8. The Dail met on both 2nd and 3rd of May, but no reference whatever was made there to the death of Herr Hitler.

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9. That considerable indignation has been caused by Mr. de Valera's visit to the German Minister will cause no surprise. However, editorial reference to the matter has been avoided in any southern Ireland newspapers reaching this office but the nature of the indignation was expressed in an editorial printed in the Belfast News-Letter of Friday, 4th May, which reads in part:-

"Accepting the Fuhrer's death as a fact, its (Eire) Prime Minister called on the German Minister in Dublin on Wednesday to express his sympathy, and was followed yesterday by the 'President's' secretary on a similar errand. This, of course, balances the message of condolence which was sent to the United States on the occasion of President Roosevelt's passing, the demands of neutrality are satisfied and a State which owes its escape from a German invasion to the armed Forces of the Allies, demonstrates its complete freedom from bias. Thus, too, is Eire's right to a seat at the Peace Conference justified, as well as her claim to possession of the Ulster 'Bridgehead'. Resisting all inducements to take sides in a war in which civilisation itself is at stake, she sheds an official tear over the grave (if it were known) of the instigator of the conflict."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. J. Garland
(for) High Commissioner for Canada in Ireland.

The Right Honourable,
The Secretary of State for
External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario,
CANADA.

EJG/HG

Refer: Army (POW)

*Dnu. LO**11th*No. G. 426O t t a w a,
May 10th, 1945.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
File No. 6-LM-10		
Ser. <i>12</i>	Chron. <i>18</i>	Filed

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you
that the Spokesman of Camp 20 has requested that
you telegraph him immediately as to whether there
is official confirmation of the reported death
of Adolf HITLER.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances
of my highest consideration.

for *A. Rennie*
Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

The Consul-General of Switzerland
in charge of German interests,
Sun Life Building,
Montreal, P.Q.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE No. HQS 7236-16 PW(B)



DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

ARMY

*fyce
10/5/45
W.B.*

OTTAWA, 9 May 45.

Department of External Affairs,
(Special Section PW),
OTTAWA, Ontario.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORD	
File No.	6-47-10
Sub.	13
Chron.	18
Filed	

The Spokesman of Camp 20 has requested the Consul General of Switzerland to telegraph immediately whether there is official confirmation of the death of Hitler.

2. I have advised the Camp Commandant that there is no such official confirmation.

H. N. Streight
(H. N. Streight),
Colonel,
Director, Prisoners of War.

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1945 MAY 10 AM 9 52

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

DEX
M MCK

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Subject.....

Date April 25, 1945 Publication Winnipeg Free Press

Report Hitler Injured
Stockholm, April 25 (BUP) — Wholly unconfirmed press reports said today that Adolf Hitler had been injured severely in a "serious accident" in Berlin.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 6-LM-40
Sub. 11 Chron. 11 Filed