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C 166

No. 122.

C 3383  
7 APR 1941

British Consulate General,  
Tangier.

March 24th. 1941.

Sir,

C 2644/109/41

In my telegram No. 385 of the 17th. March I had the honour to inform you of the arrival at Tangier of some German ~~Consular~~ officials who had come here at the invitation of the Spanish authorities to take over from the latter the Mendoubia and re-establish a German Consulate therein. The officials in question consisted of two diplomatic Counsellors the Herren Heberlein and Stille from the German Embassy at Madrid, and a Consular official one Herbert Noehring.

2. The two diplomats left Morocco, to return I understand to Madrid, after the public ceremony which had been staged on the 17th. March by the Spaniards for handing over their illegally acquired premises to the Germans. Herr Noehring however remains as the new German Consular incumbent. As far as I know Herr Noehring will enjoy the rank of Consul, but nothing official has as yet been pronounced on this subject.

3. I knew Herr Noehring some nine years ago in Japan where he acted as one of the Secretaries of the German Embassy in Tokio. He was at that time an energetic, intelligent and likeable young man, and he may be expected to show considerable energy in attacking our interests here. He has not yet addressed the usual official letter announcing his arrival to my neutral colleagues, and some time will doubtless have to elapse before he can actually install himself and his staff in the Mendoubia, as there are a number of structural alterations to be made in addition to the furnishing and re-painting of the house.

4. If it is a fact that the new German representation here will rank as a Consulate and not as a Consulate General, we may, I think, be faced with a request, (emanating of course from the Germans), to reduce our representation to that status. The Spanish Consulate General is, it is said, to become a Consulate in the near future, and the French Government have already withdrawn their Consul General and left their Mission sine die in charge of a Consul while keeping Monsieur de Castellane, the Consul General, as titular head of the post. The Spaniards have evidently not yet made up their minds on the point as I am now in the habit of receiving official communications addressed to me under the style of "Minister", (the old courtesy title which all Consuls General were given under the International Administration), "Consul General" and "Consul".

5. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Excellency the Governor, Gibraltar, and to His Majesty's Ambassadors at Madrid and Lisbon.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

*A. Gascoigne*

His Majesty's Principal Secretary  
of State for Foreign Affairs,

Foreign Office,

London, S.W.1.

Tangier  
se estable  
consulado  
aleman