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It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

## Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran'

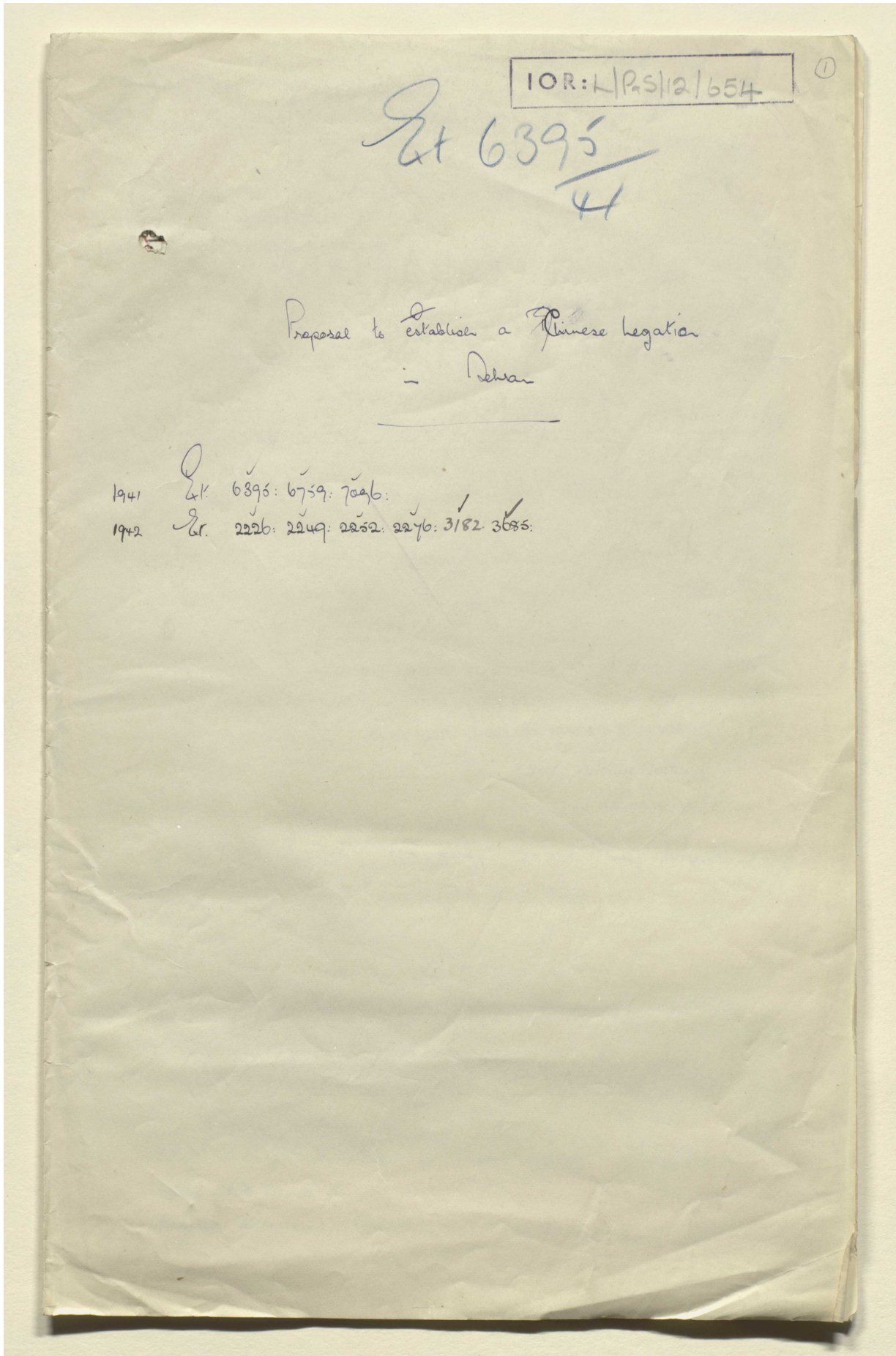
<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/12/654
<b>Date(s)</b>	29 Sep 1941-29 Jun 1942 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (12 folios)
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### About this record

This file consists of correspondence between the Foreign Office and HM Ambassador to Iran regarding a Chinese Legation in Tehran from the point at which it was proposed until the first Chinese Minister to Iran, Mr. Li Tieh-tseng, assumed his post in May 1942. Among the topics discussed include:

- Chinese interest in countering the Japanese influence across the Middle East.
- Delay by the Persian government in responding to the request.
- Possibility that the Legation proposal was suggested by 'puppet government' at Nanking.
- Brief professional biography of Mr Li Tieh-tseng as related to British interests.



IOR:L/PS/12/654

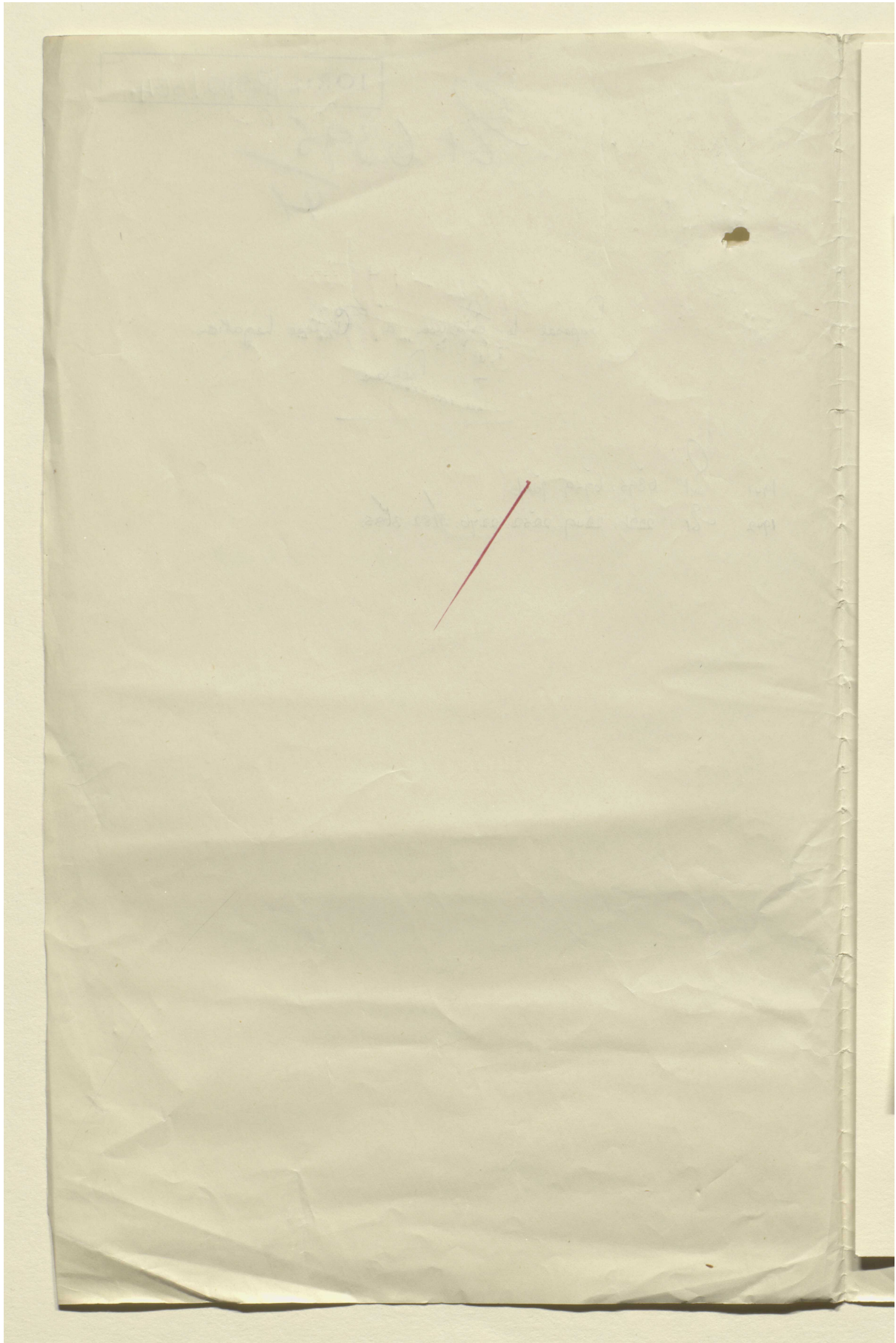
①

Ext 6395  
4

Proposal to establish a Chinese legation  
in Tehran

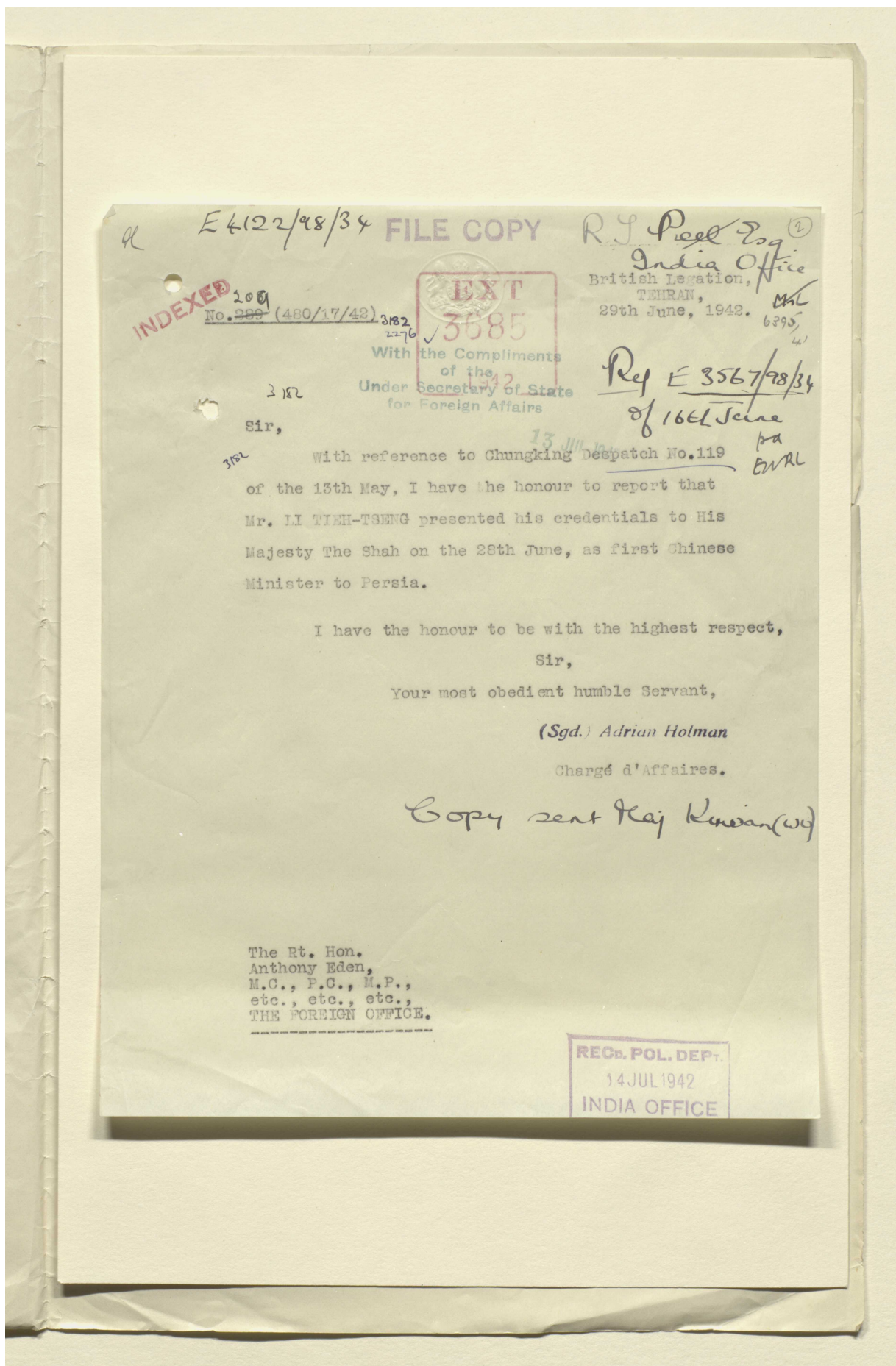
1941 6395: 6759: 7096:  
1942 2226: 2249: 2252: 2276: 3182: 3685:

Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [front-i]  
(2/28)

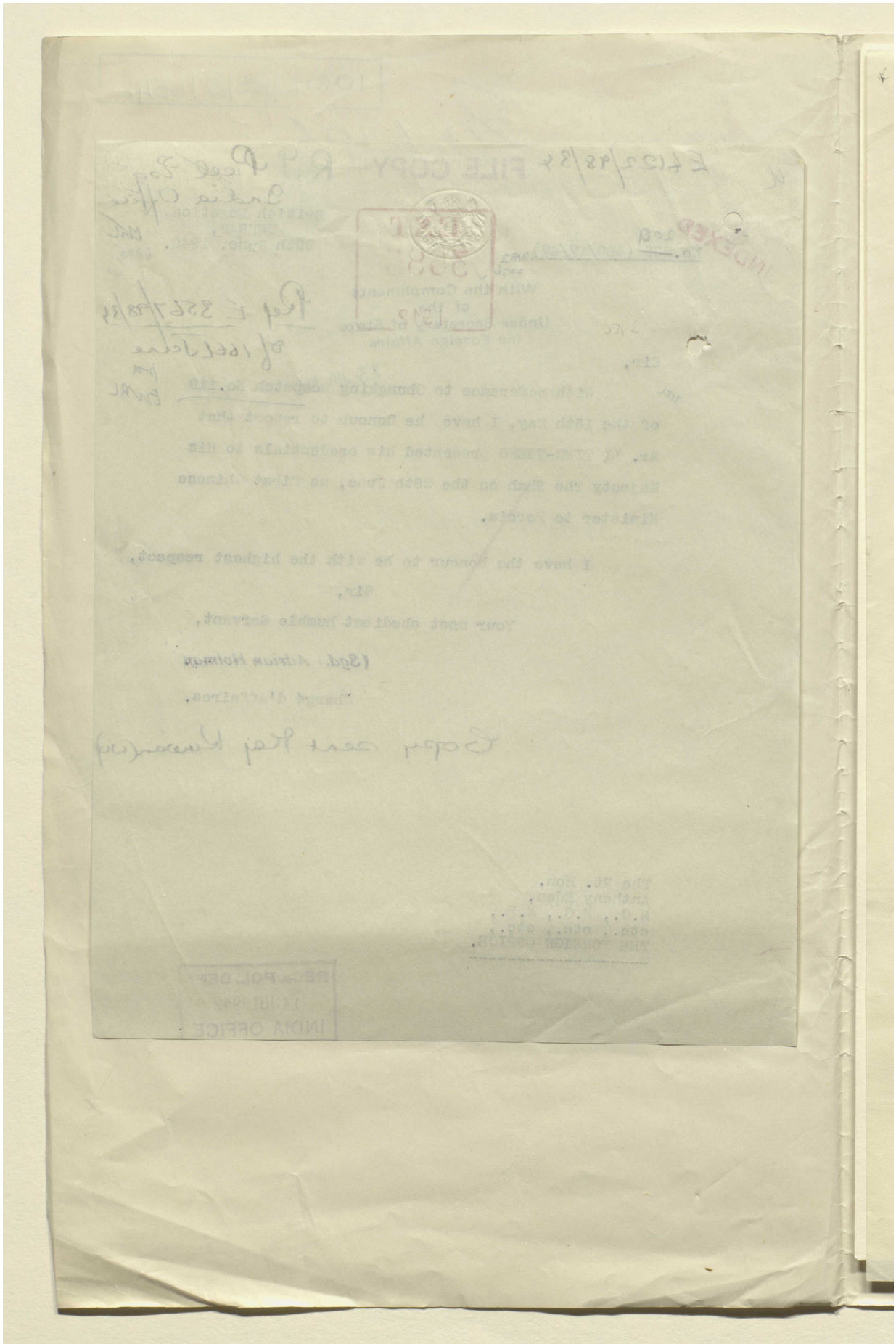




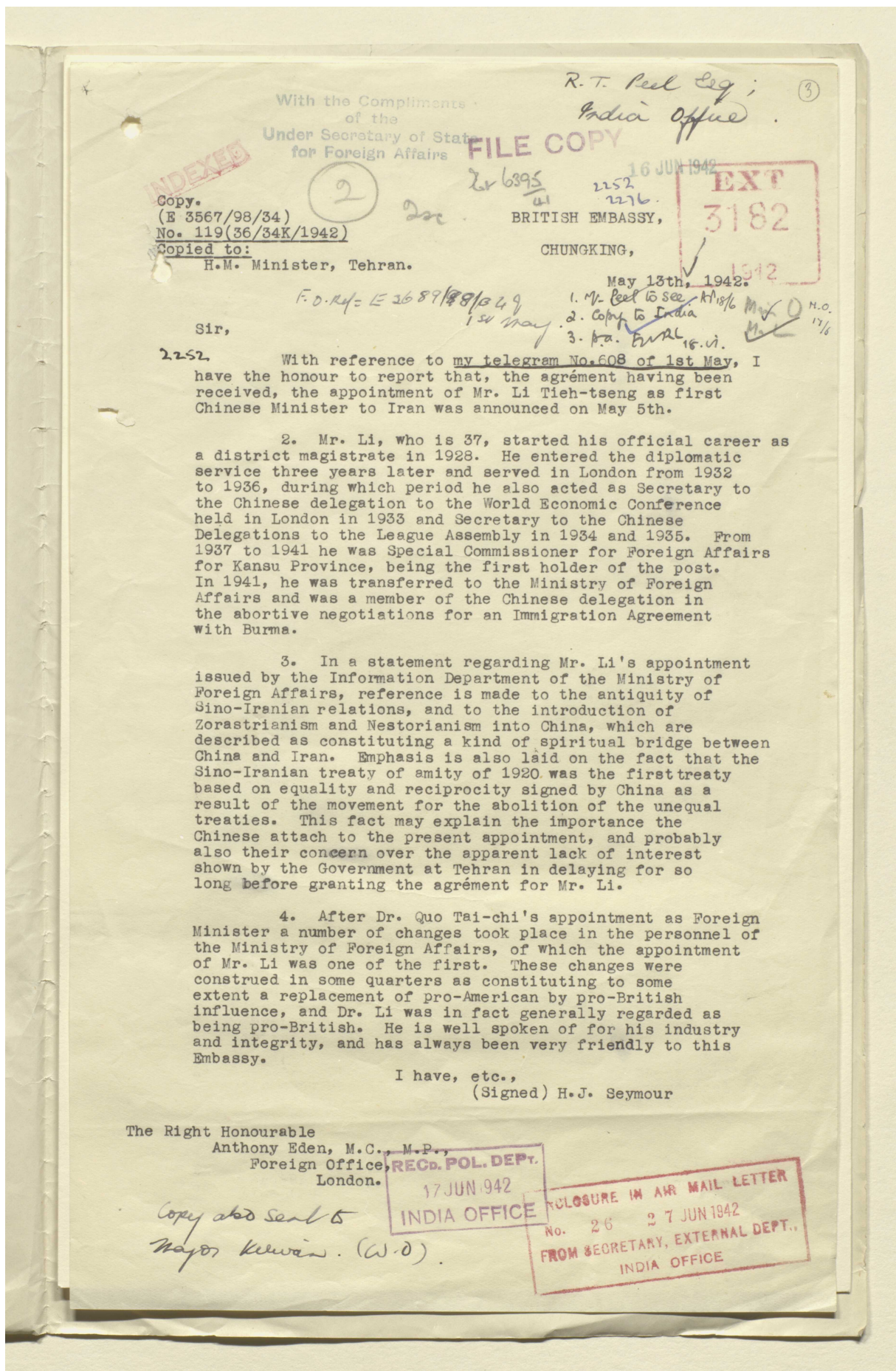
Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [2r] (3/28)











With the Compliments  
of the  
Under Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs

R.T. Peel Leg;  
India Office

3

FILE COPY

INDEXED

2

2252  
2276  
BRITISH EMBASSY,  
CHUNGKING,

16 JUN 1942

EXT  
3182  
1942

Copy.  
(E 3567/98/34)  
No. 119(36/34K/1942)

Copied to:  
H.M. Minister, Tehran.

May 13th, 1942.  
1. Mr. Peel to Sec. A/18/6  
2. Copy to India  
3. P.A. ENCL 15.vi.

F.O. Ref = E 3689/28/349  
1st May

Sir,

2252. With reference to my telegram No. 608 of 1st May, I have the honour to report that, the agrément having been received, the appointment of Mr. Li Tieh-tseng as first Chinese Minister to Iran was announced on May 5th.

2. Mr. Li, who is 37, started his official career as a district magistrate in 1928. He entered the diplomatic service three years later and served in London from 1932 to 1936, during which period he also acted as Secretary to the Chinese delegation to the World Economic Conference held in London in 1933 and Secretary to the Chinese Delegations to the League Assembly in 1934 and 1935. From 1937 to 1941 he was Special Commissioner for Foreign Affairs for Kansu Province, being the first holder of the post. In 1941, he was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was a member of the Chinese delegation in the abortive negotiations for an Immigration Agreement with Burma.

3. In a statement regarding Mr. Li's appointment issued by the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reference is made to the antiquity of Sino-Iranian relations, and to the introduction of Zoroastrianism and Nestorianism into China, which are described as constituting a kind of spiritual bridge between China and Iran. Emphasis is also laid on the fact that the Sino-Iranian treaty of amity of 1920 was the first treaty based on equality and reciprocity signed by China as a result of the movement for the abolition of the unequal treaties. This fact may explain the importance the Chinese attach to the present appointment, and probably also their concern over the apparent lack of interest shown by the Government at Tehran in delaying for so long before granting the agrément for Mr. Li.

4. After Dr. Quo Tai-chi's appointment as Foreign Minister a number of changes took place in the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of which the appointment of Mr. Li was one of the first. These changes were construed in some quarters as constituting to some extent a replacement of pro-American by pro-British influence, and Dr. Li was in fact generally regarded as being pro-British. He is well spoken of for his industry and integrity, and has always been very friendly to this Embassy.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed) H.J. Seymour

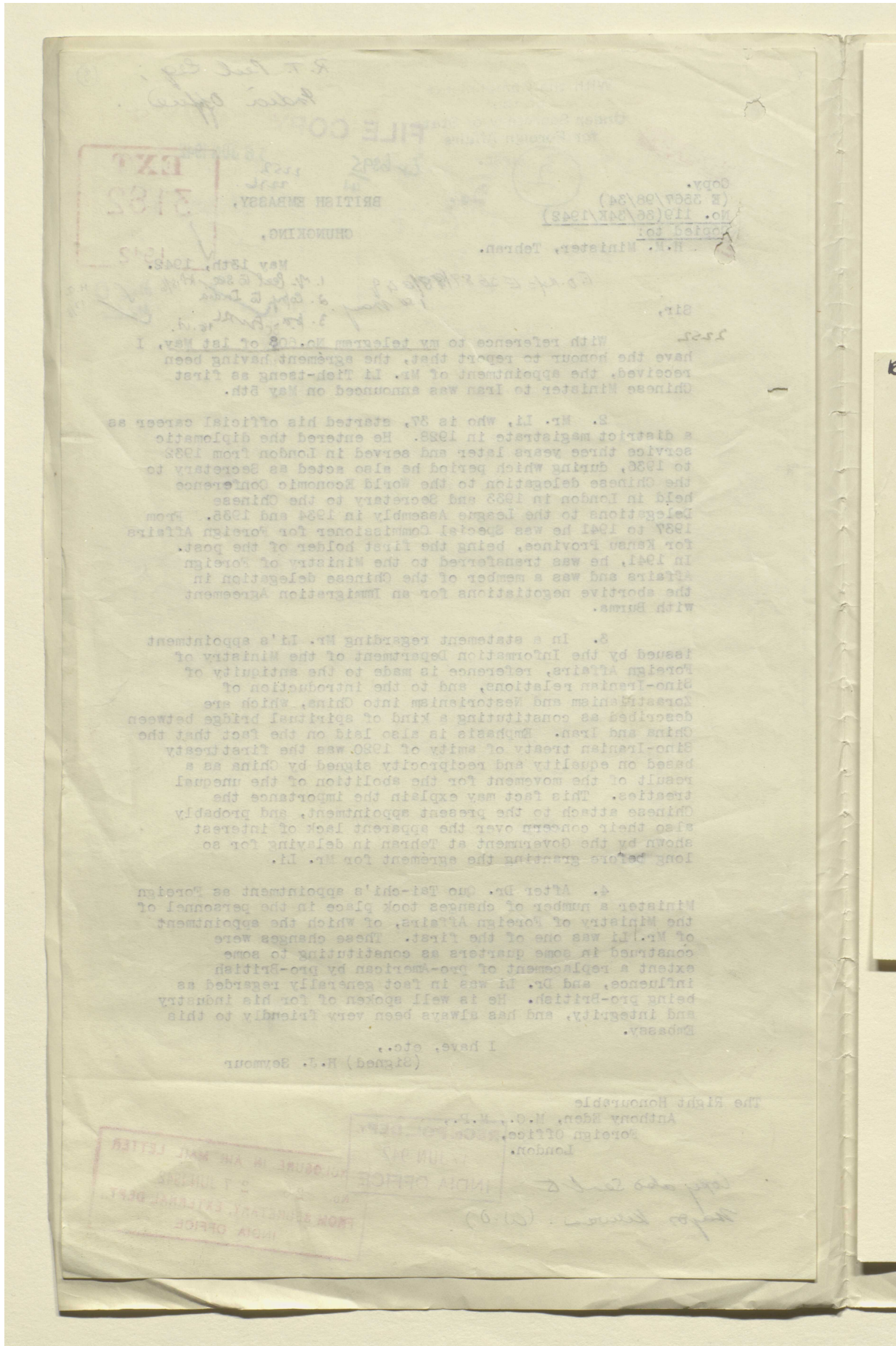
The Right Honourable  
Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
INDIA OFFICE  
17 JUN 1942

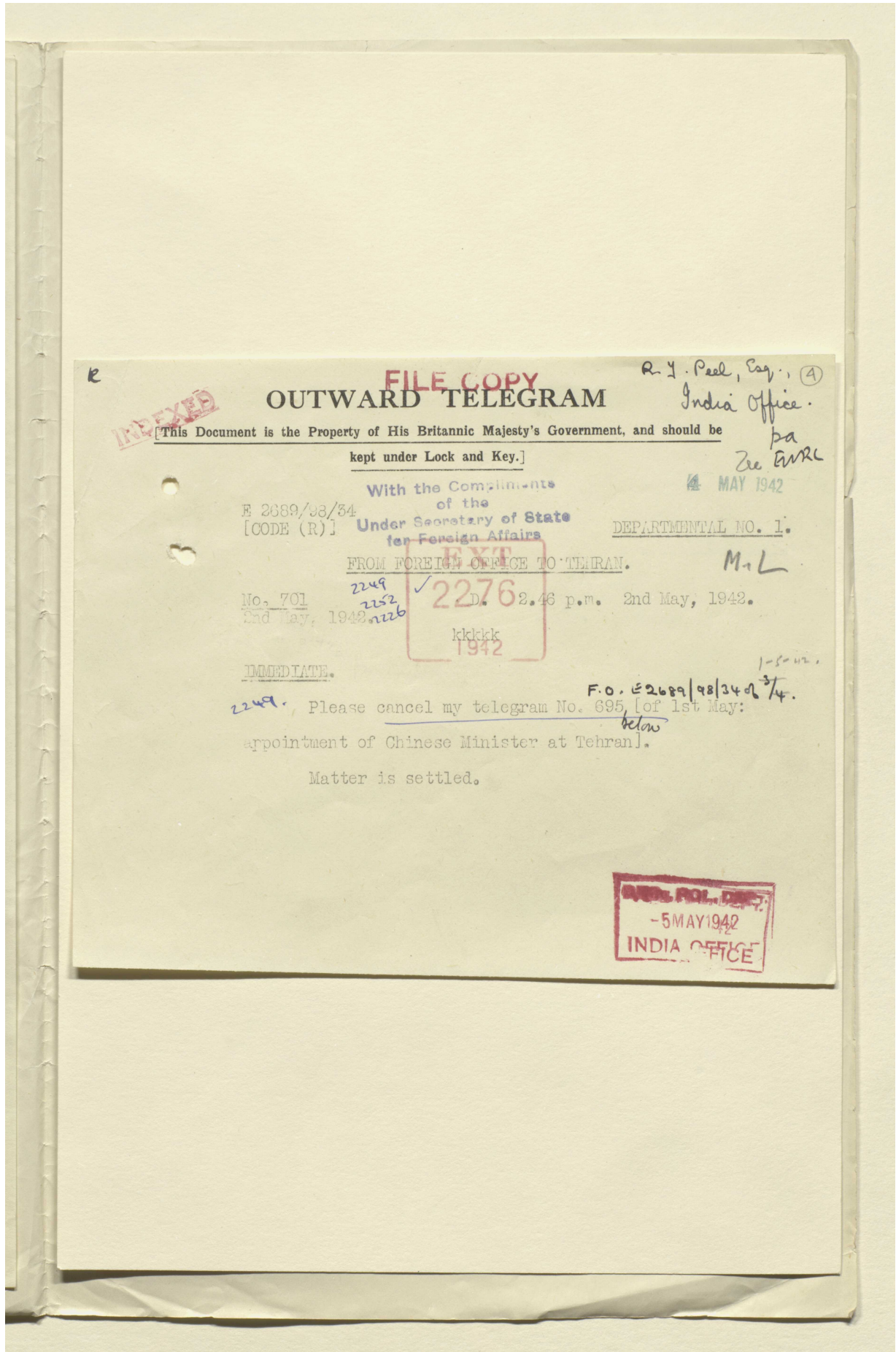
ENCLOSURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER  
No. 26 27 JUN 1942  
FROM SECRETARY, EXTERNAL DEPT.,  
INDIA OFFICE

Copy also sent to  
Major Keenan. (W.D.)









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INDEXED

**FILE COPY**  
**OUTWARD TELEGRAM**

R. L. Peel, Esq., (4)  
India Office.  
pa  
See ENRC

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MAY 1942

With the Compliments  
of the  
Under Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO TEHRAN.

M.L.

F 2689/98/34  
[CODE (R)]  
No. 701  
2nd May, 1942

EXE  
2276  
1942

D. 2.46 p.m. 2nd May, 1942.

IMMEDIATE.

2249. Please cancel my telegram No. 695, [of 1st May:  
below  
appointment of Chinese Minister at Tehran].

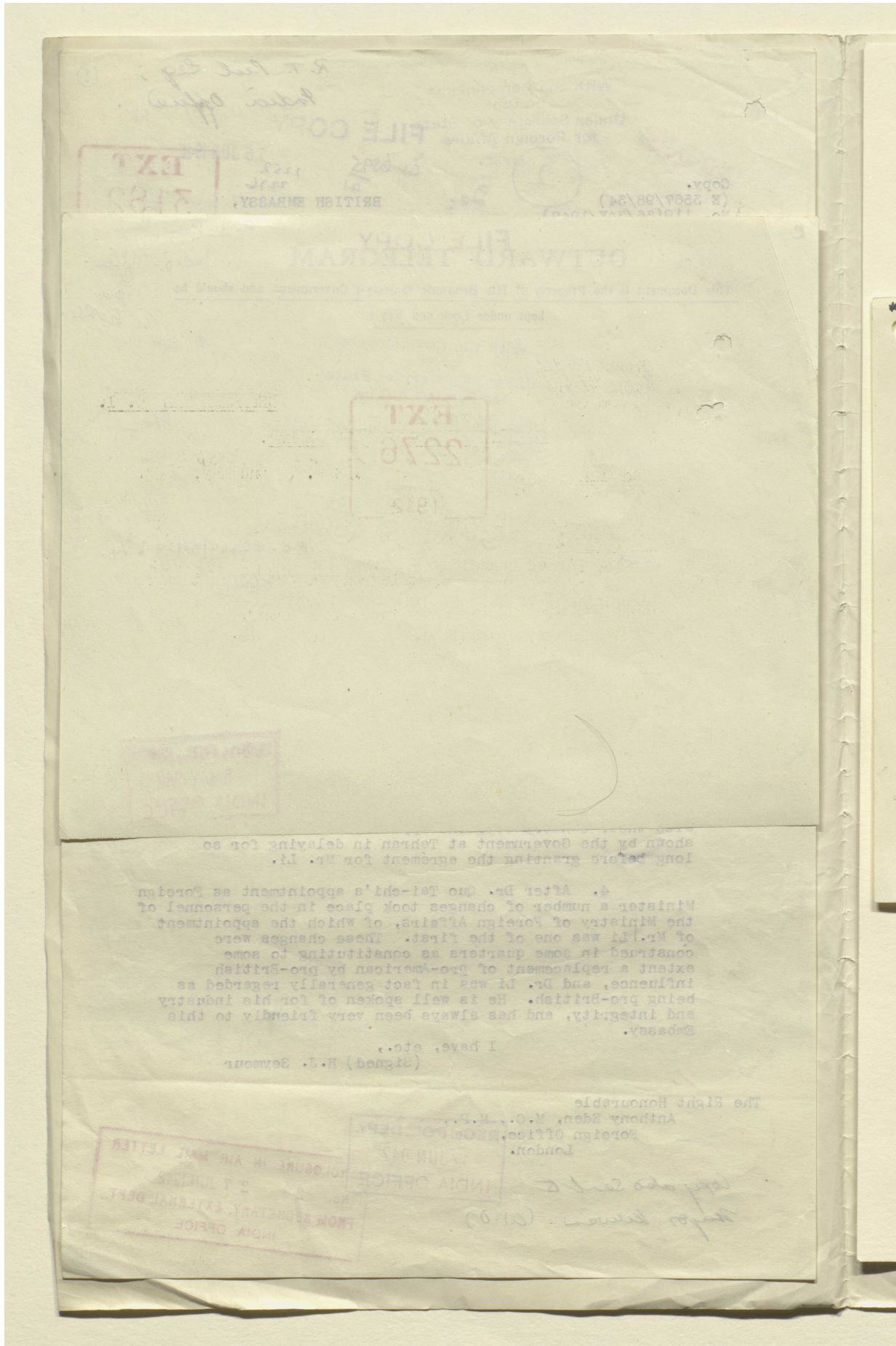
F.O. 2689/98/34 2/4.

Matter is settled.

OVER. POL. DEPT.  
- 5 MAY 1942  
INDIA OFFICE

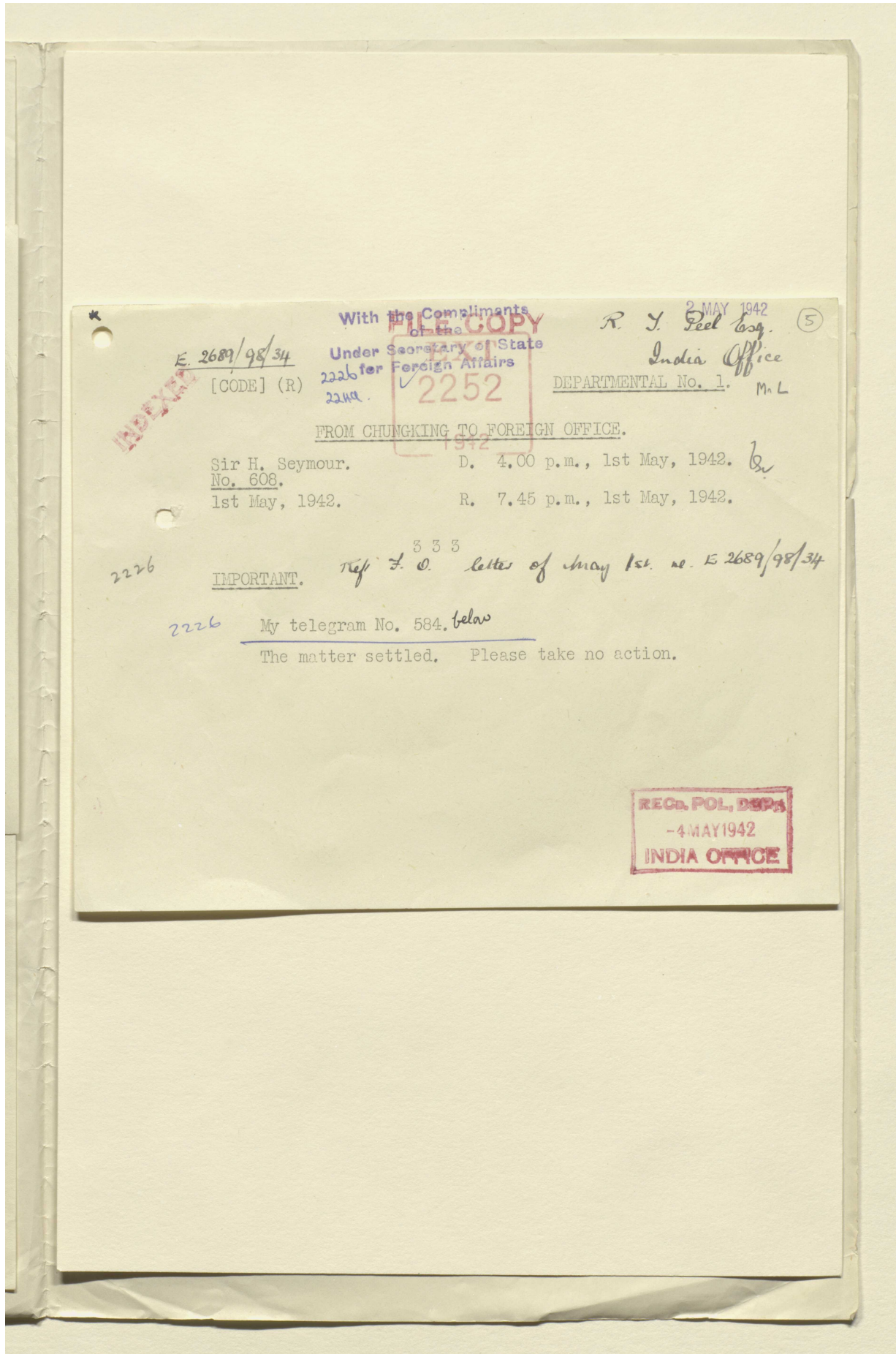


Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [4v] (8/28)



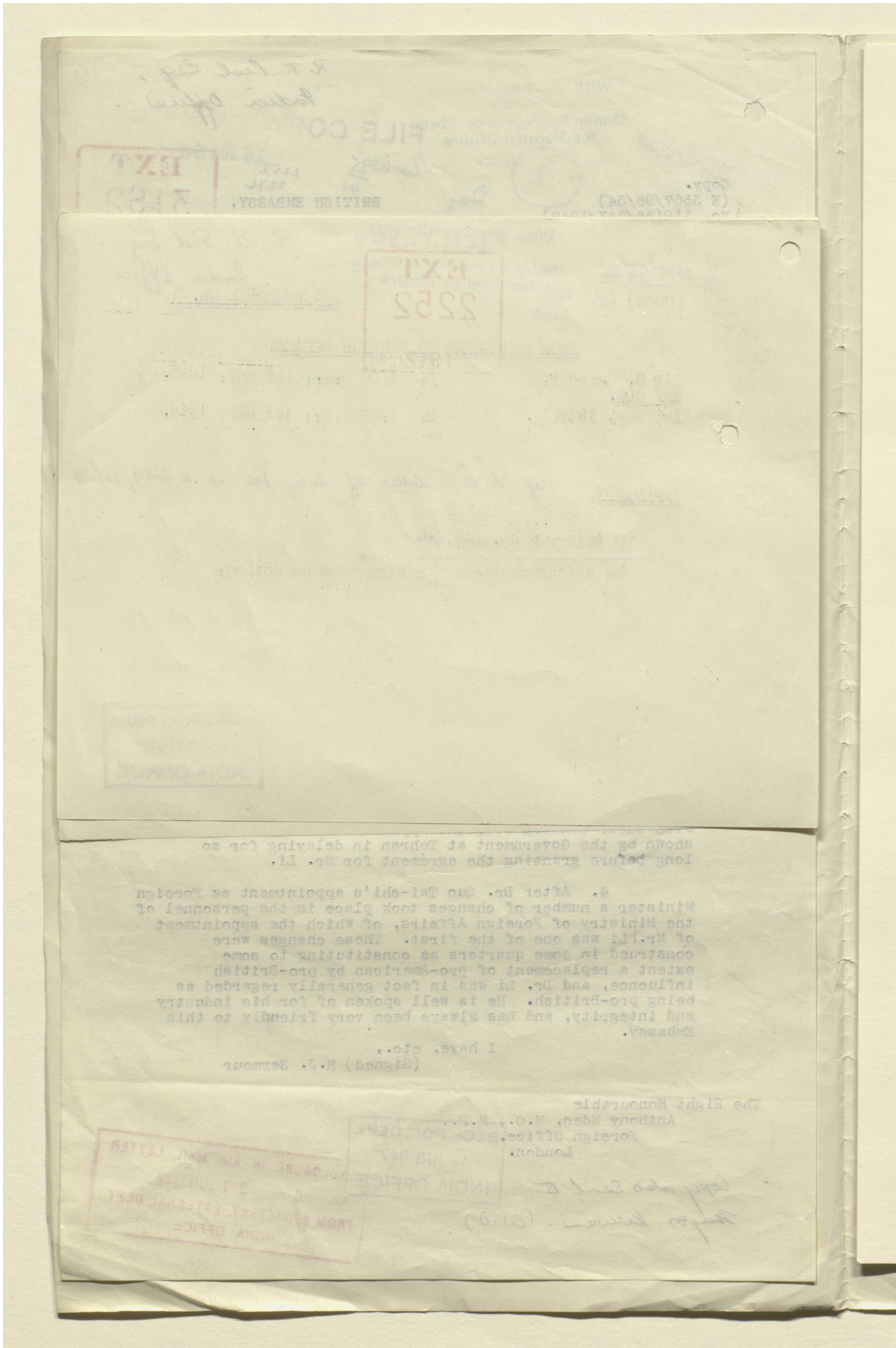


Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [5r] (9/28)

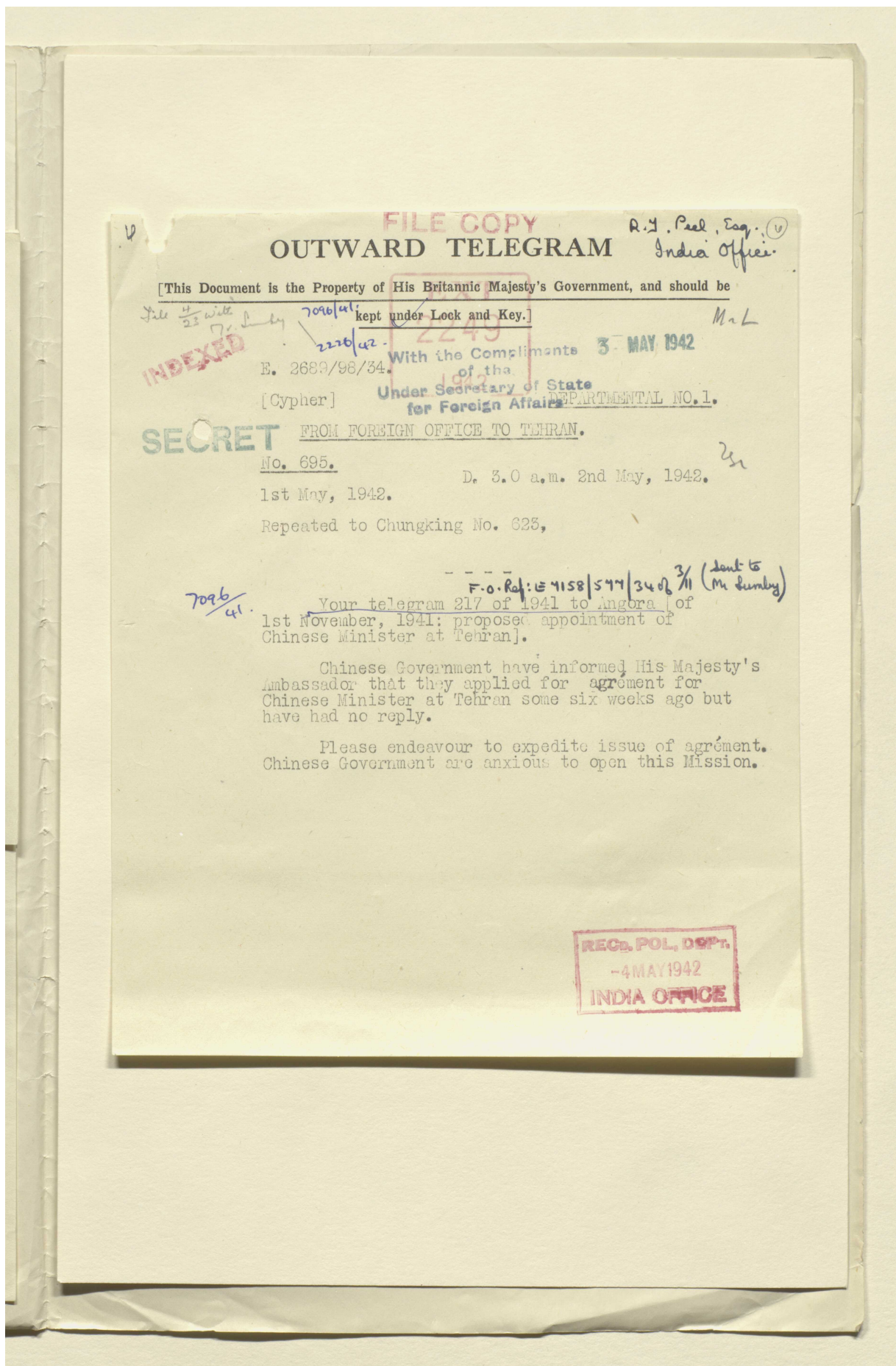




Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [5v] (10/28)

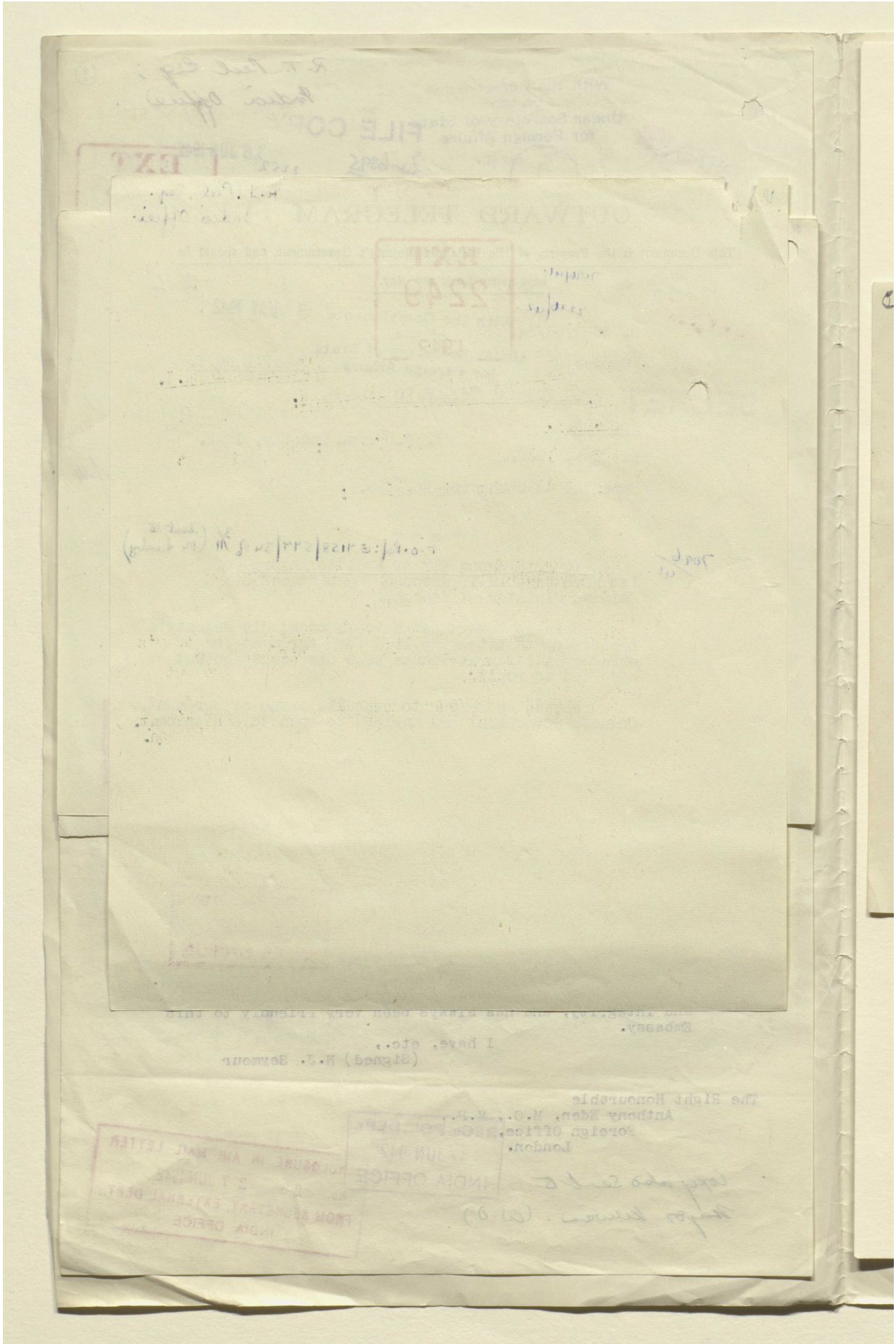




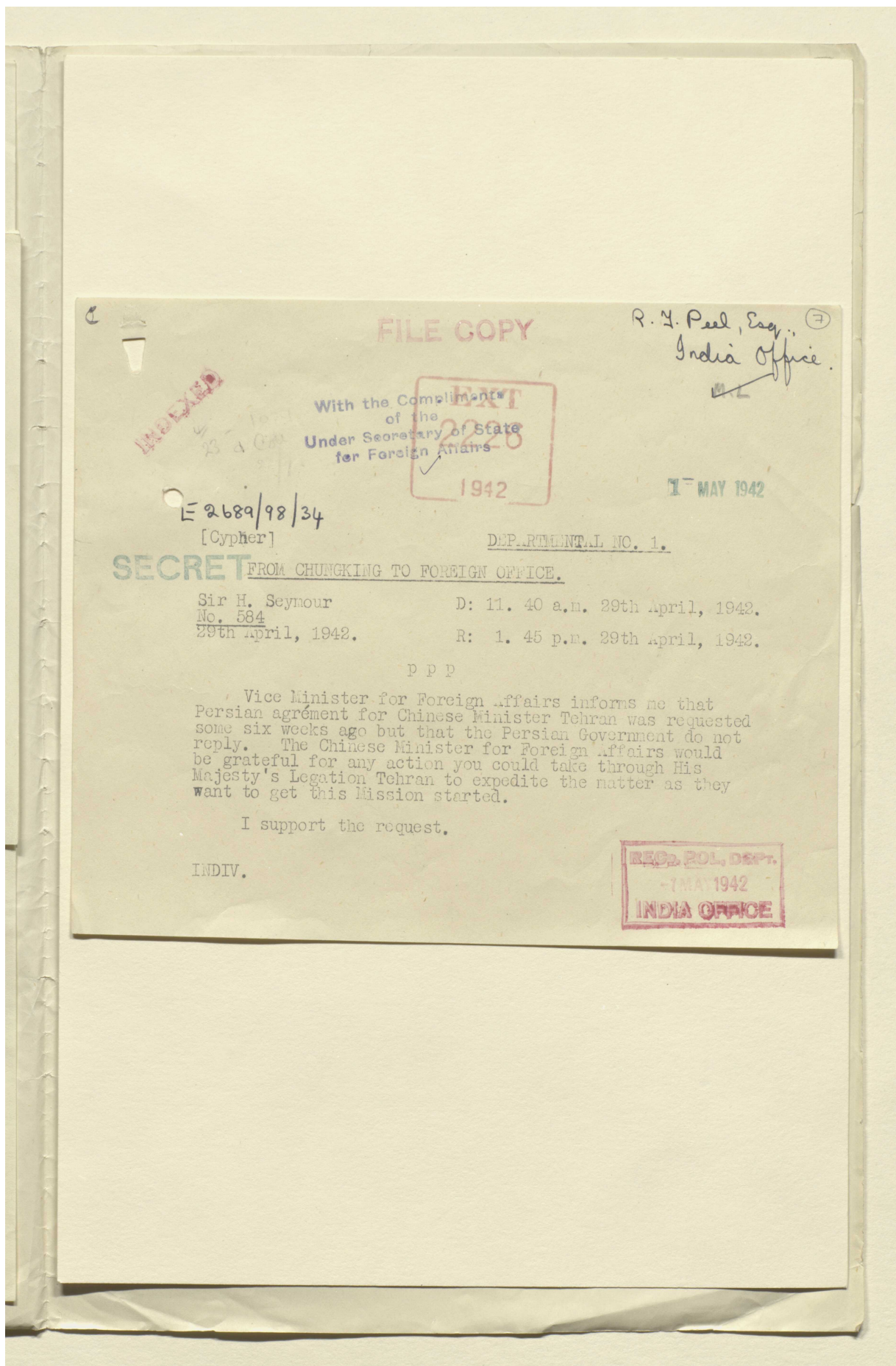




Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [6v] (12/28)







FILE COPY

R. Y. Peel, Esq., (7)  
India Office.

INDEXED

With the Compliments  
of the  
Under Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs

EXT  
2228  
1942

7 MAY 1942

E 2689/98/34

[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

SECRET FROM CHUNGKING TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir H. Seymour  
No. 584  
29th April, 1942.

D: 11. 40 a.m. 29th April, 1942.

R: 1. 45 p.m. 29th April, 1942.

P P P

Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Persian agreement for Chinese Minister Tehran was requested some six weeks ago but that the Persian Government do not reply. The Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs would be grateful for any action you could take through His Majesty's Legation Tehran to expedite the matter as they want to get this Mission started.

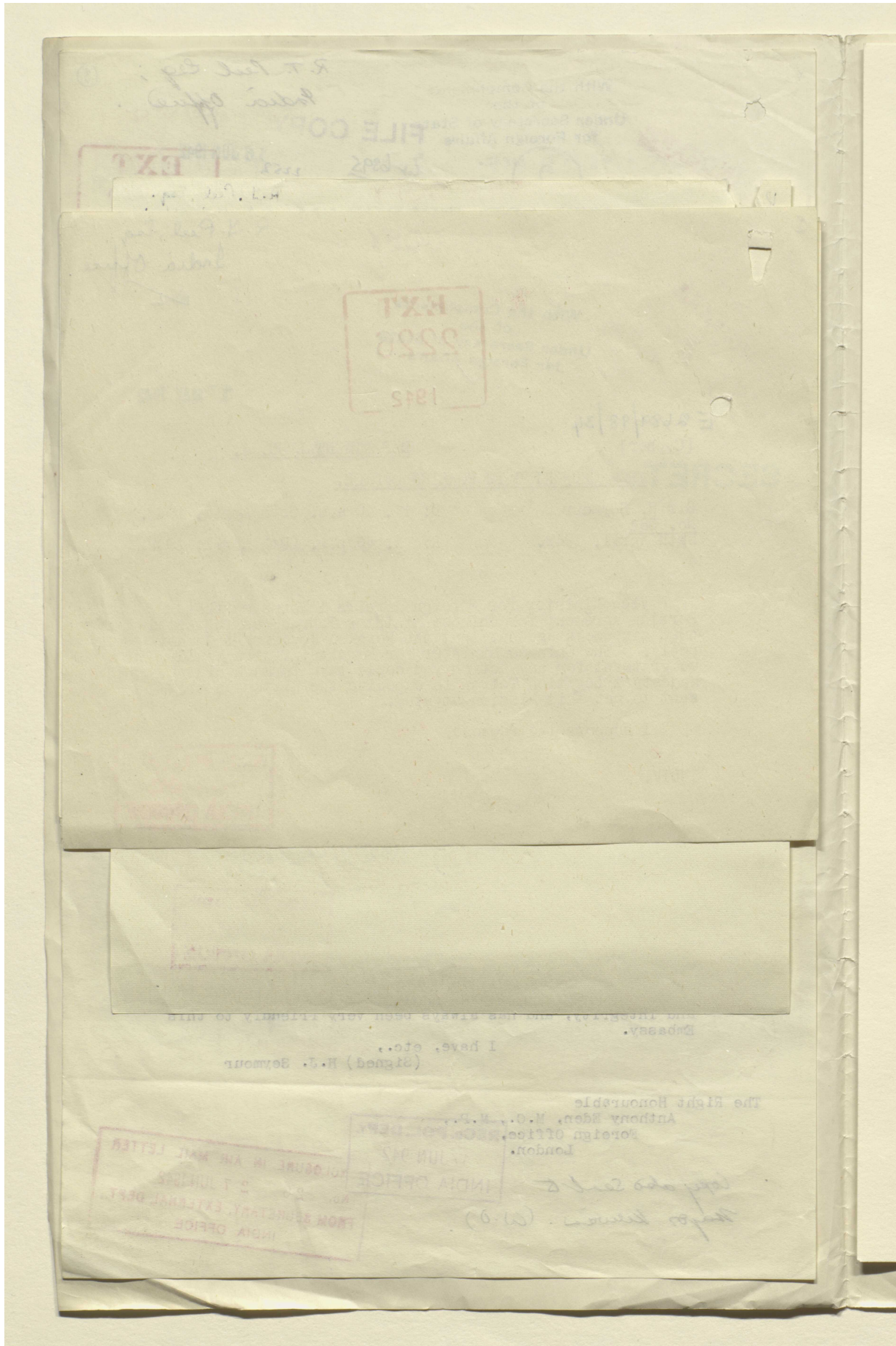
I support the request.

INDIV.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
-7 MAY 1942  
INDIA OFFICE

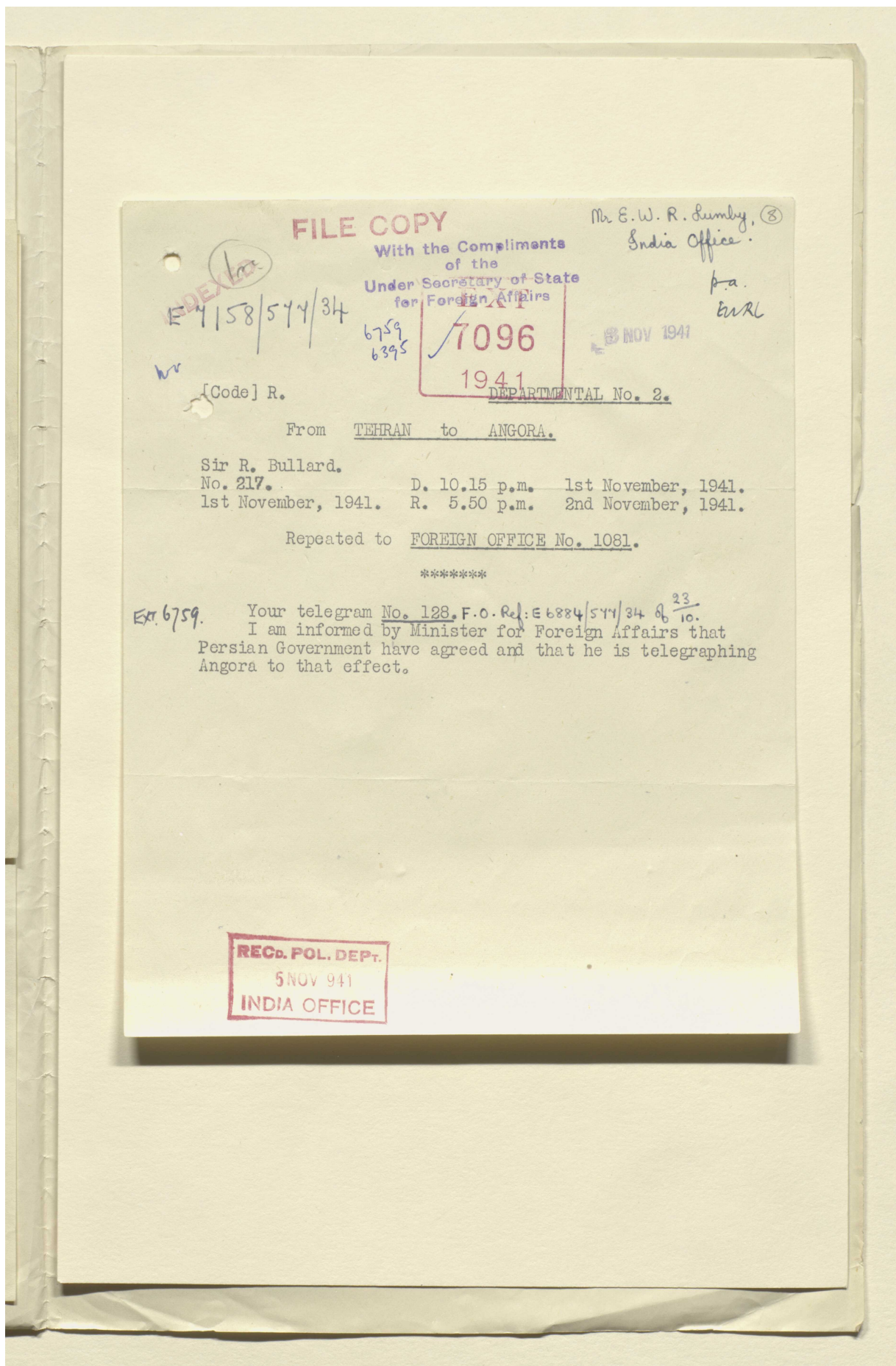


Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [7v] (14/28)



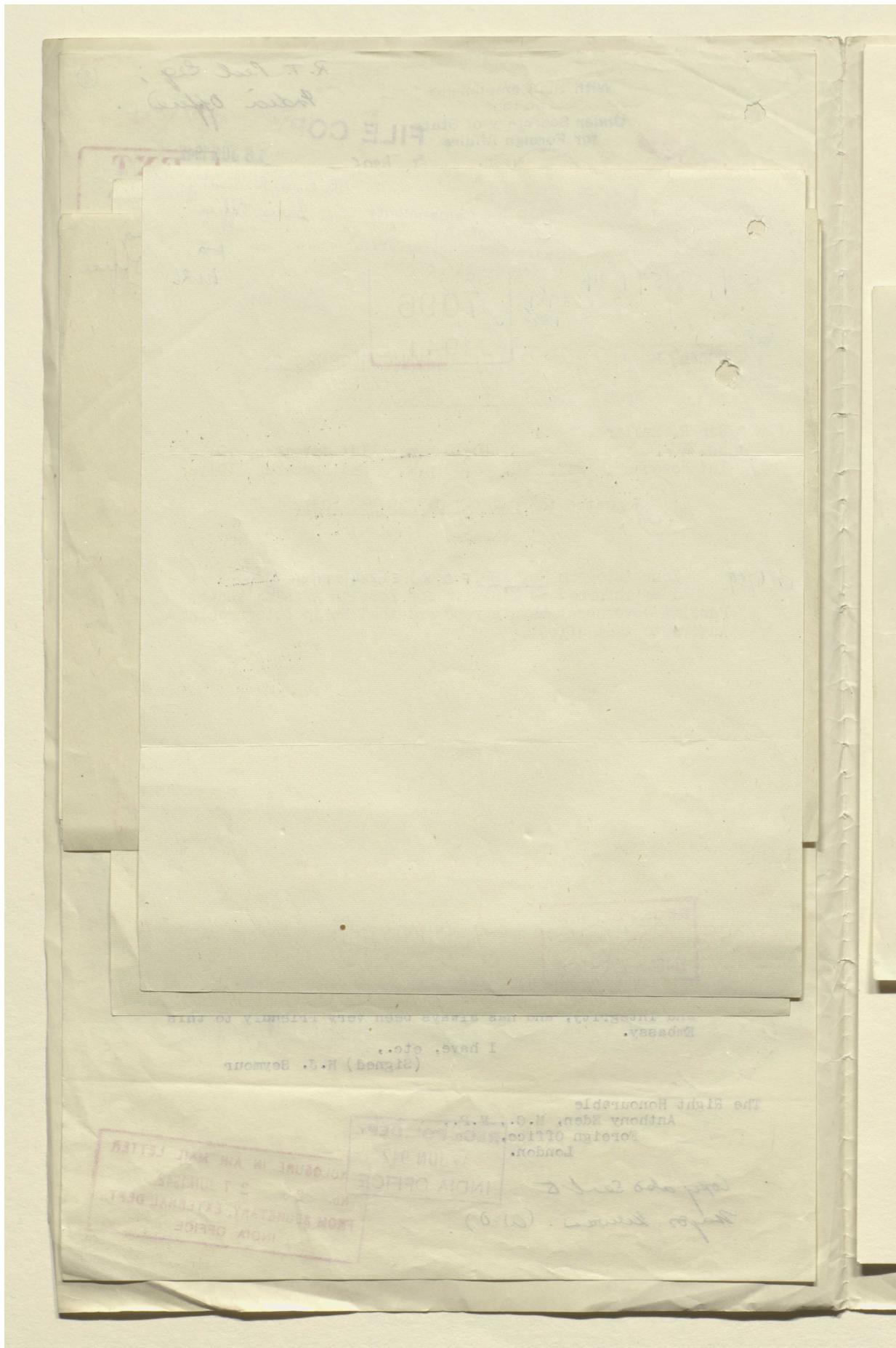


Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [8r] (15/28)

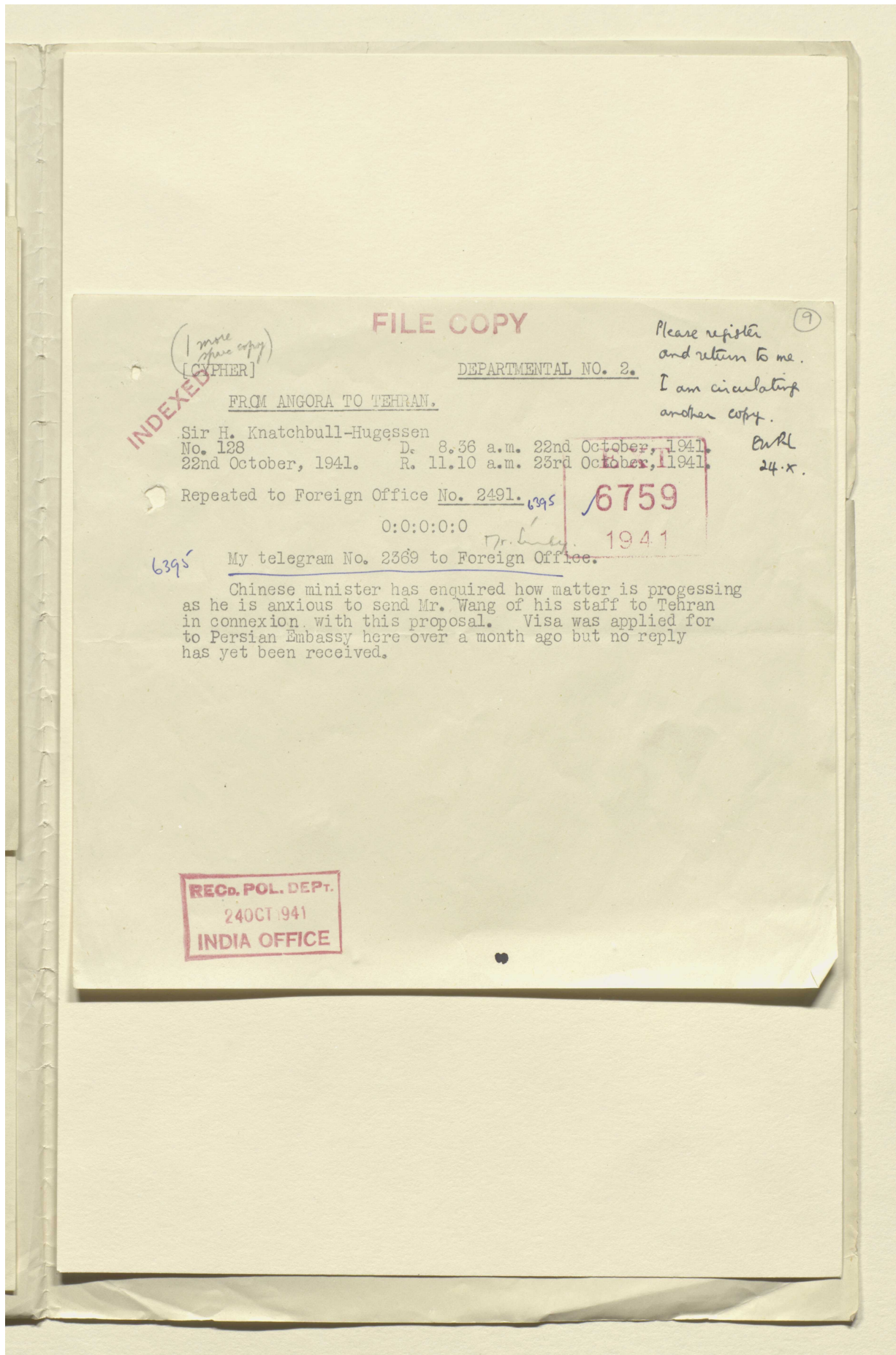




Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [8v] (16/28)







(1 more  
same copy)  
[CYPHER]  
INDEXED

FILE COPY

Please register  
and return to me.  
I am circulating  
another copy.

9

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM ANGORA TO TEHRAN.

Sir H. Knatchbull-Hugessen  
No. 128 D. 8.36 a.m. 22nd October, 1941.  
22nd October, 1941. R. 11.10 a.m. 23rd October, 1941.

EWL  
24.x.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 2491. 6395

6759

0:0:0:0:0

1941

6395

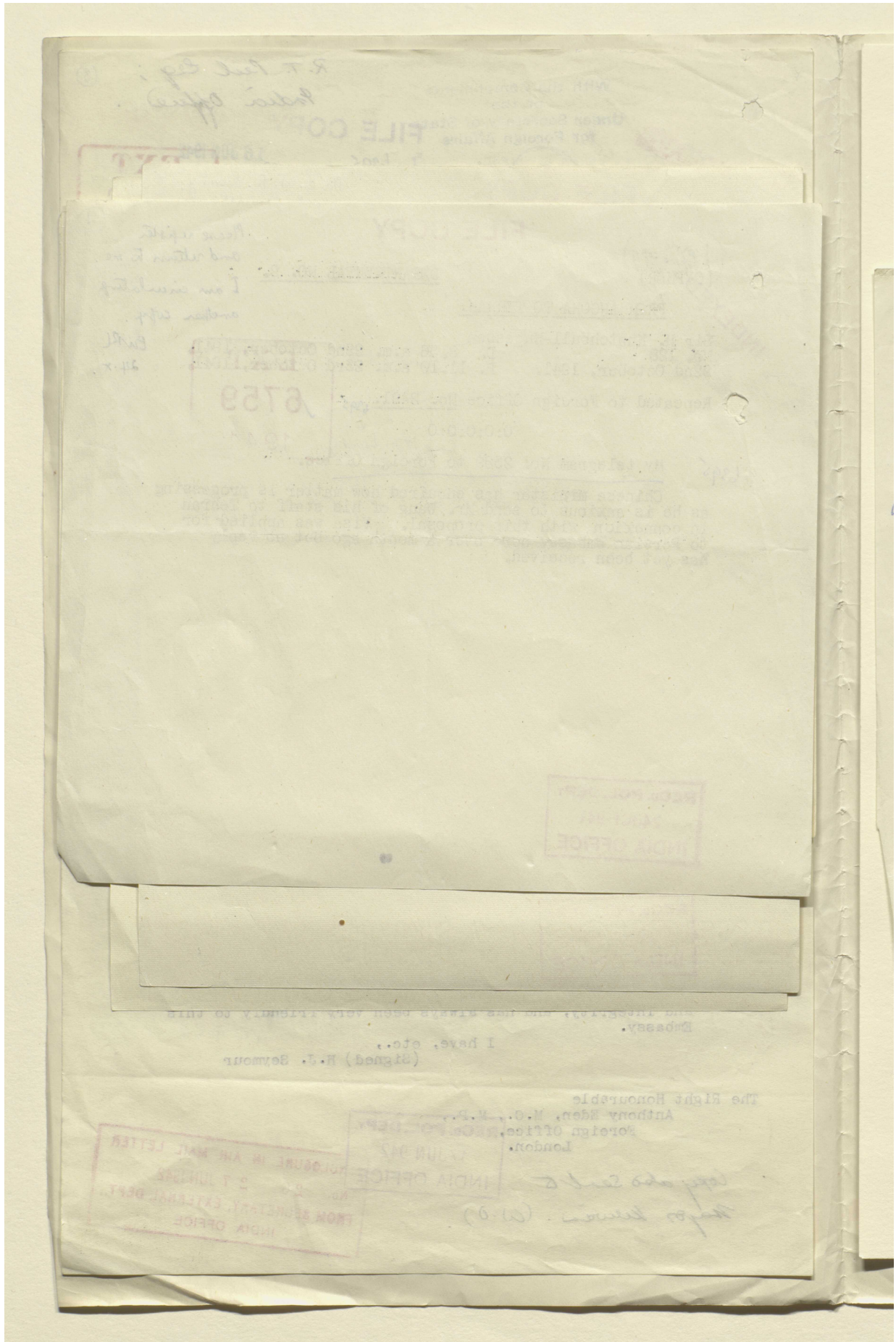
My telegram No. 2369 to Foreign Office.

Chinese minister has enquired how matter is progressing as he is anxious to send Mr. Wang of his staff to Tehran in connexion with this proposal. Visa was applied for to Persian Embassy here over a month ago but no reply has yet been received.

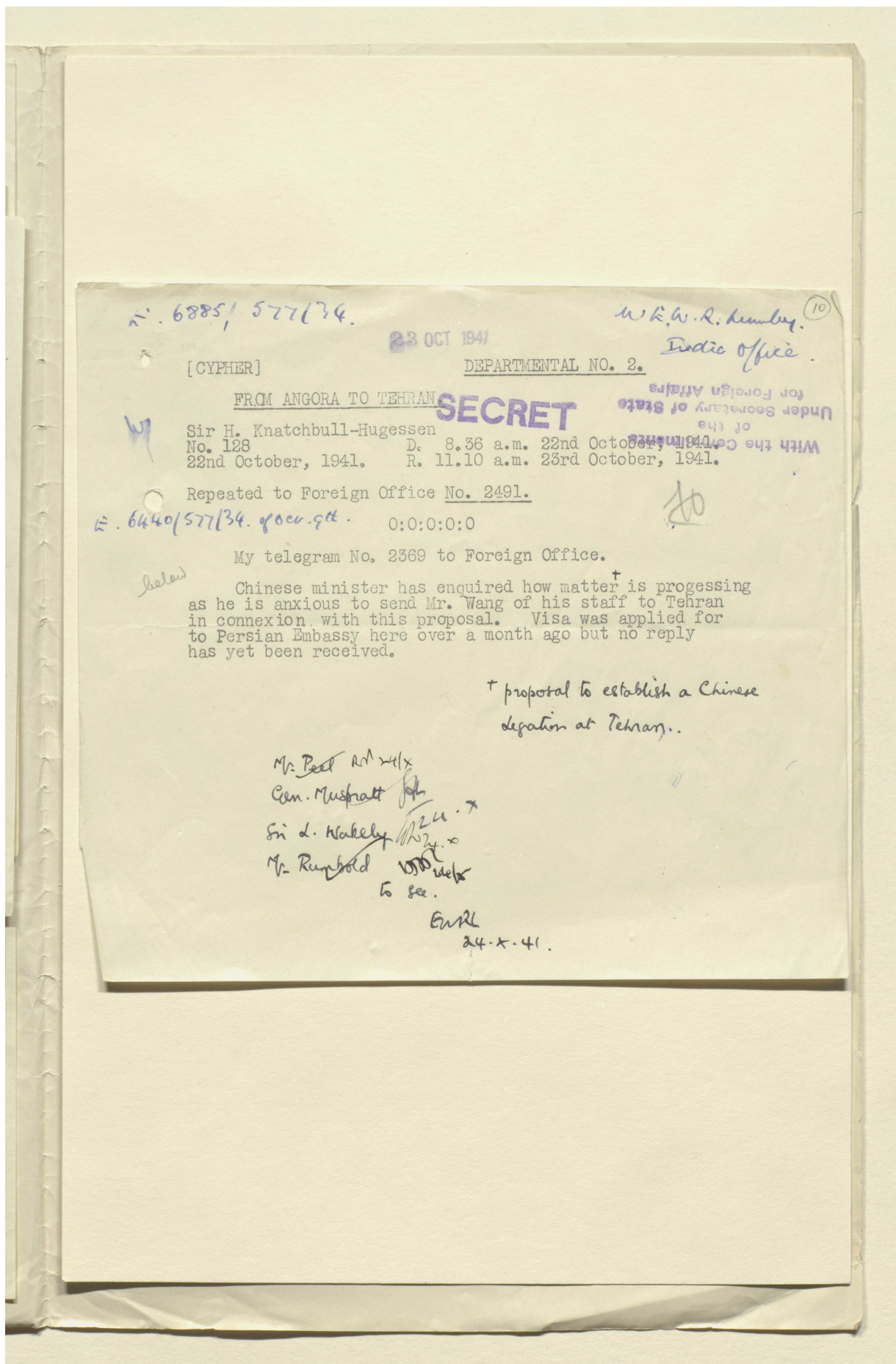
REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
24 OCT 1941  
INDIA OFFICE



Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [9v] (18/28)

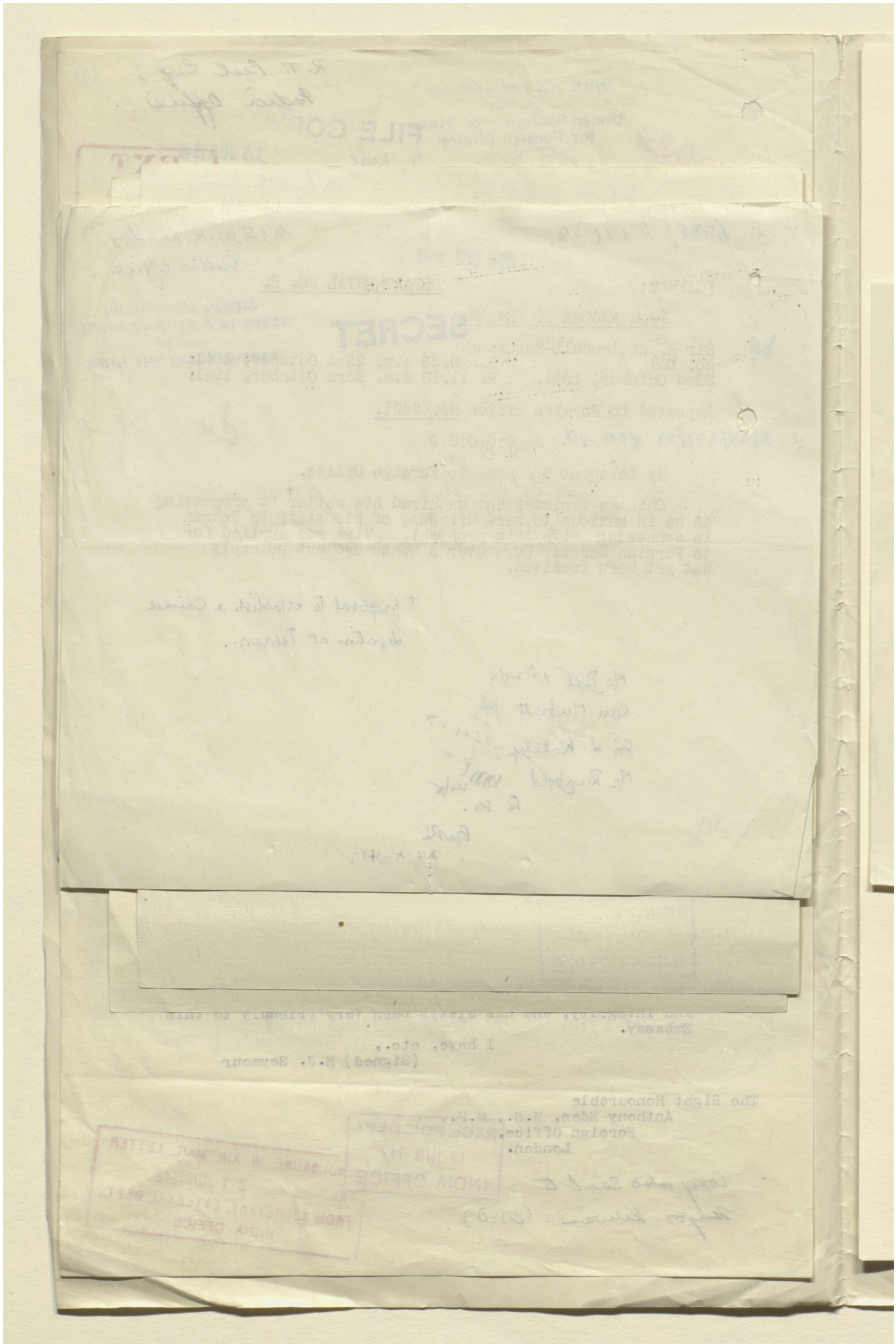








Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [10v] (20/28)





Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [11r] (21/28)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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INDIA DIRECT

EXT

6395

1941

E6128/577/34  
[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO TEHRAN.

No. 870  
8th October, 1941.

D: 5. 30 p.m. 8th October 1941.

Repeated to Angora No. 2182  
Government of India No. 12565

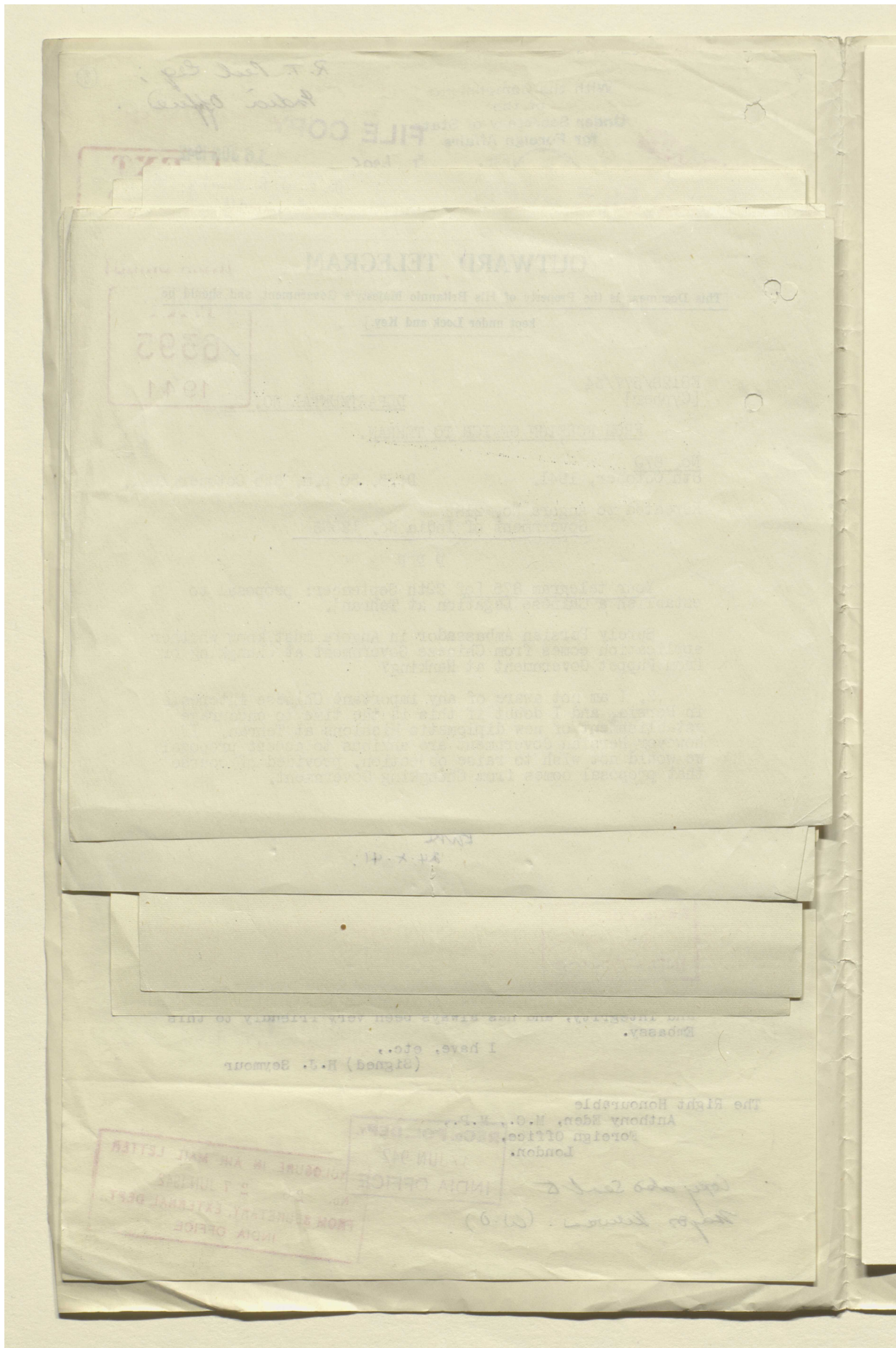
p p p

*Refer*  
Your telegram 875 [of 29th September: proposal to establish a Chinese Legation at Tehran].

Surely Persian Ambassador in Angora must know whether application comes from Chinese Government at Chungking or from Puppet Government at Nanking?

2. I am not aware of any important Chinese interests in Persia, and I doubt if this is the time to encourage establishment of new diplomatic Missions at Tehran. If however Persian Government are anxious to accept proposal, we would not wish to raise objection, provided of course that proposal comes from Chungking Government.







ws.  
E6440/575/34  
[CYPHER].

FILE COPY  
With the Compliments  
of the  
Under Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Lumbly (12)  
INDIA DIR/OT  
EXT India Office  
6395  
1941  
DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

9 OCT 1941

FROM ANGORA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

SECRET

Sir H. Knatchbull Hugessen. D. 11.24 p.m. October 7th, 1941.  
No. 2369. R. 2.10 p.m. October 8th, 1941.  
October 7th, 1941.

Repeated to Tehran No. 119  
India No. 141

YYYYYYY

Tehran telegram No. 875. 2.0. Ref. No. E6128/577/34 of 30/9

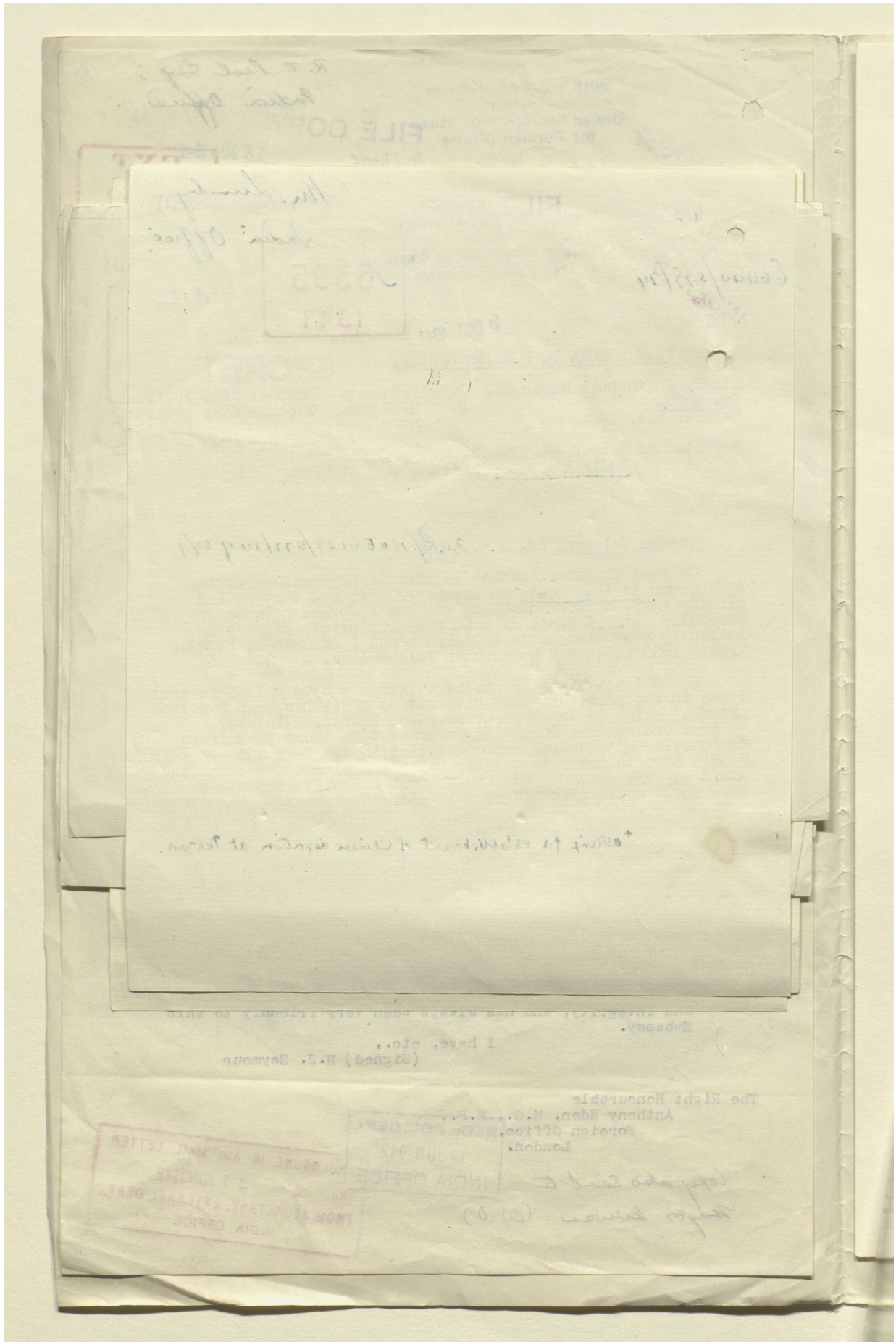
Chinese Minister informs me that he approached Persian Ambassador in this sense† on September 16th and that he had already [grp. undec:7 addressed to] him a formal note on July 13th proposing establishment of a Chinese Diplomatic Mission in Tehran in accordance with articles 2 and 5 of Chinese Persian Treaty 1920 which had never been followed up.

2. Chinese Minister states matter has been raised several times in the past, but that hitherto no reply has been received probably owing to Japanese pressure at Tehran. Minister affirms orders from Chungking Government to increase Chinese diplomatic and consular representation in the Near and Middle East in order to counter balance Japanese influence and would be very grateful for any support which His Majesty's Government could give him to this end.

† asking for establishment of Chinese legation at Tehran.



Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [12v] (24/28)

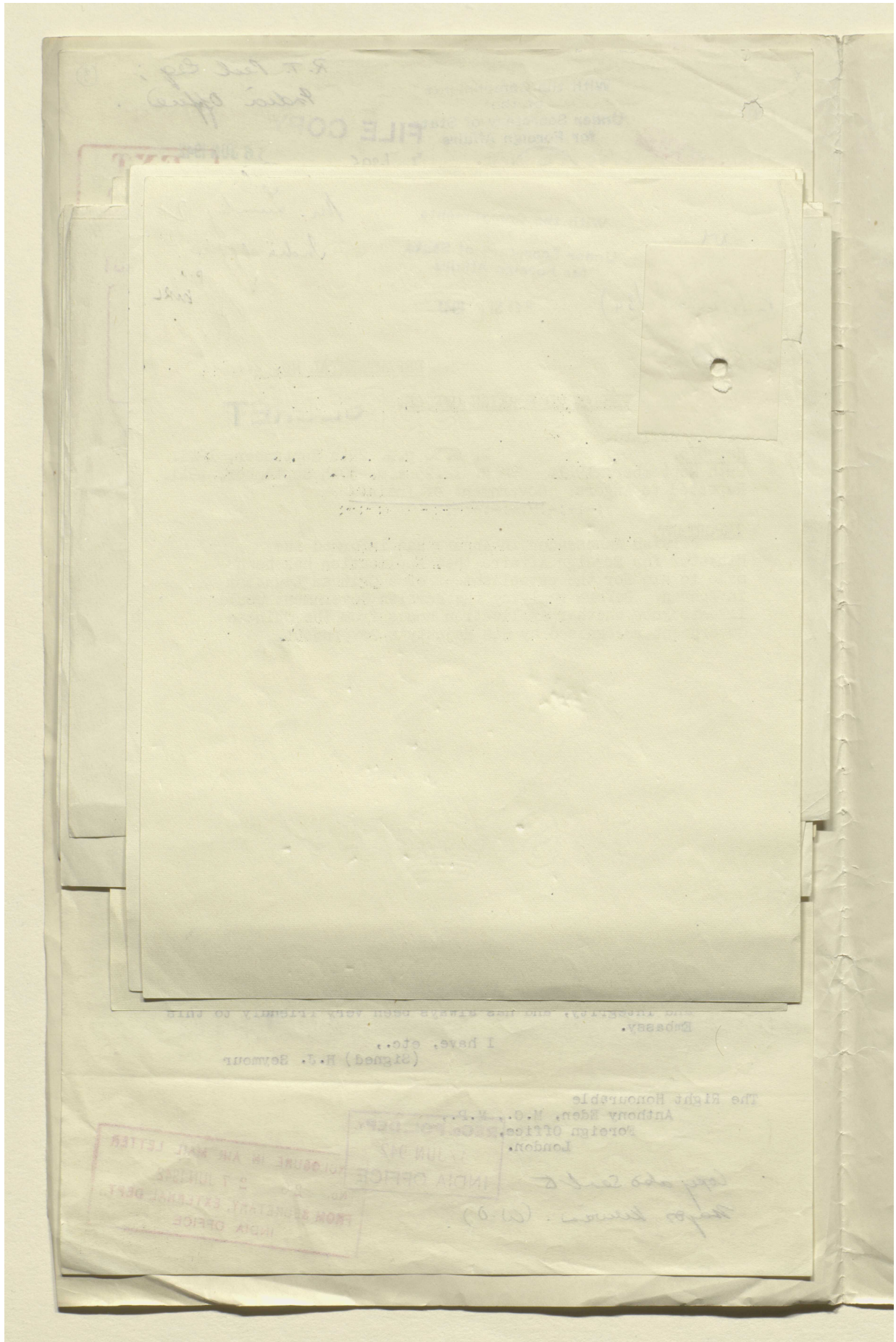








Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [13v] (26/28)



Ext 6395/41 'Proposal to establish a Chinese Legation in Tehran' [back-i]  
(27/28)

