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September 6, 1928.

A-F:

In reply to your inquiry of September 5, 1928, with respect to the status of Mr. A. H. F. Edwardes after February, 1928, this Division regrets to inform you that neither the Division files nor the files of the Index Bureau contain any information on this point. The Department has not received any reports with respect to negotiations at Peking between the Diplomatic Body and Chinese officials concerning Mr. Edwardes during February and March, 1928. There are attached despatches Nos. 1418 and 1482 of March 6 and April 26, 1928, respectively, from the Legation at Peking, containing information with regard to a visit paid to Shanghai by Mr. Edwardes for the purpose of obtaining united action on the part of the north and south in proposing his plan to put into effect the so-called "interim surtaxes".

With respect to your inquiry concerning whether Sir Miles Lampson was in Peking during May, 1928, it appears that he signed the observations with respect to

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to the Diplomatic Body circulars which were circulated during that month. Mr. B. C. Newton is listed as Counselor of the British Legation at Peking, and acted as British Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Minister in the spring of this year. The exact dates of Sir Miles' absence are not known to this Division but from the data available it appears that Mr. Newton was Chargé in at least parts of February and March.

Mr. F. L. Mayer was shown the foregoing and stated that it is correct according to his recollection. He said that when he left Peking in April, 1928, Edwardes was still called Officiating Inspector General of Customs; that the Diplomatic Body had not had any formal discussion with regard to his status and had had no negotiations with the Chinese concerning him.

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