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Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/313
Title	'Complaint regarding repetition of "Most Secret" Foreign Office telegram'
Date(s)	28 Oct 1939-17 Jan 1940 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (4 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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About this record

The main focus of the file is a deciphered telegram (folio 5), sent from the Government of India External Affairs Department to the Secretary of State for India, which contains intelligence relating to a potential threat to British interests in Asia from Germany and Russia. The next letter, from Roland Tennyson Peel, Secretary for the Political Department in the India Office, complains that this telegram repeated information which his office had already received, and that this repetition could 'compromise the intelligence source'. The final letter in the file (folio 2), from Olaf Kirkpatrick Caroe in the Government of India External Affairs Department, apologises for the repetition and any trouble caused. The file was previously marked secret.



Previous File. To be kept in Secret Cupboard

P.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.

IOR: HPa 5/12/313

P.Z.
6776
1939.

SUBJECT:

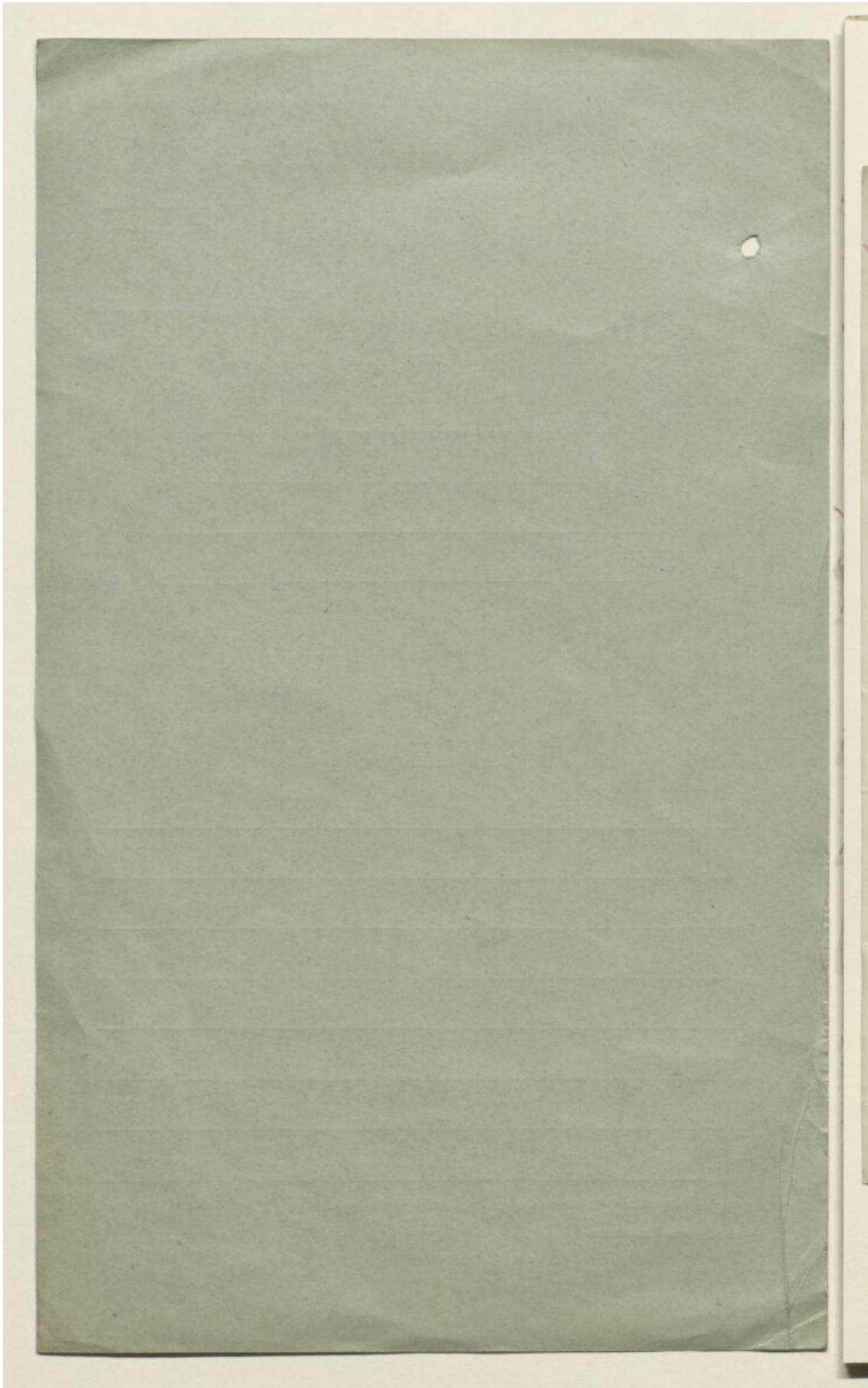
Complaint regarding repetition of "Most Secret" telegram

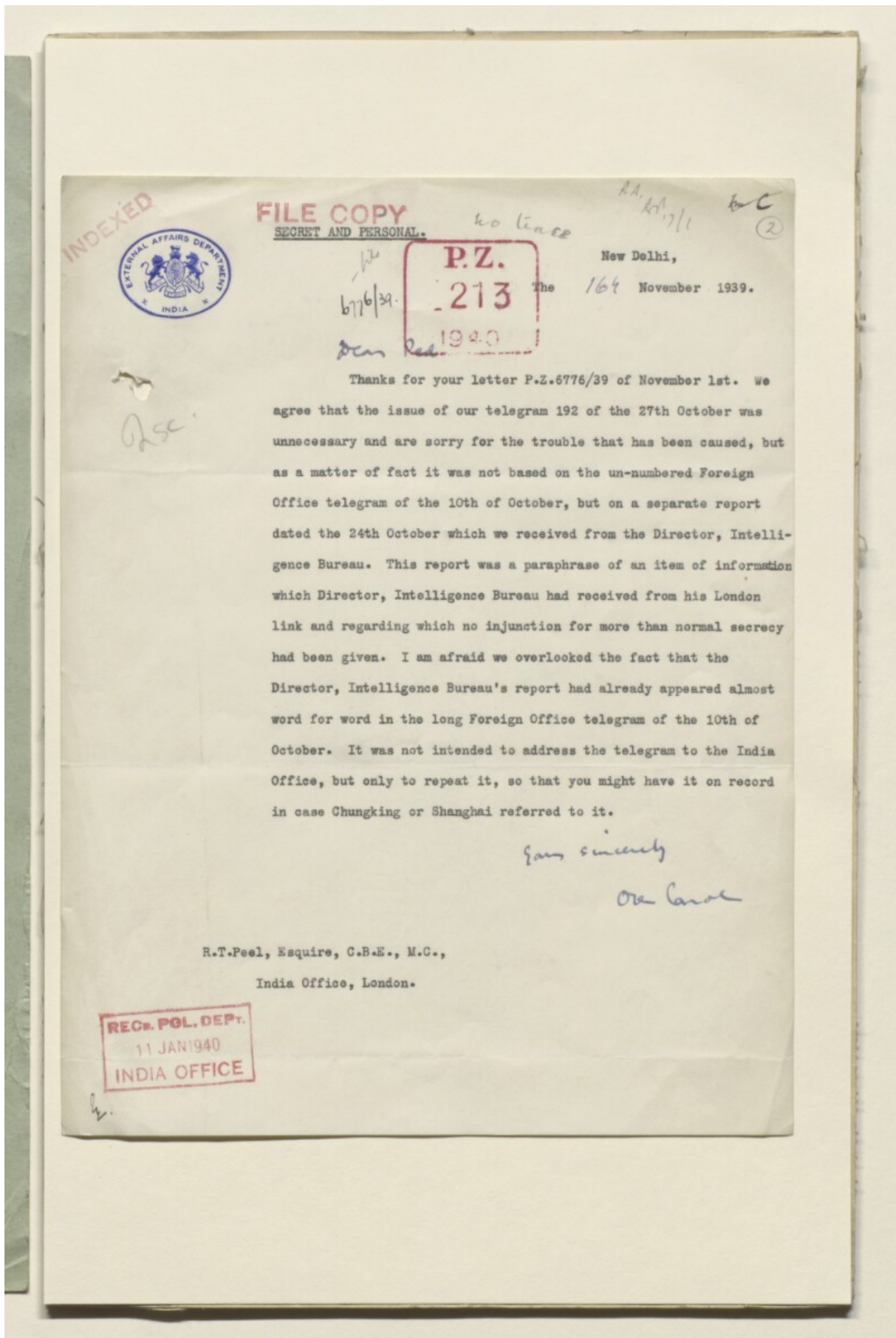
This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR.	
1939	P.Z. 6776. 1940. P.Z. 213.
19	P.
10	P.
10	P.
19	P.
19	P.
10	P.
19	P.

Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.

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INDEXED



FILE COPY
SECRET AND PERSONAL.

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AA. 17/11
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(2)

6776/39

P.Z.
213
1940

New Delhi,
The 16th November 1939.

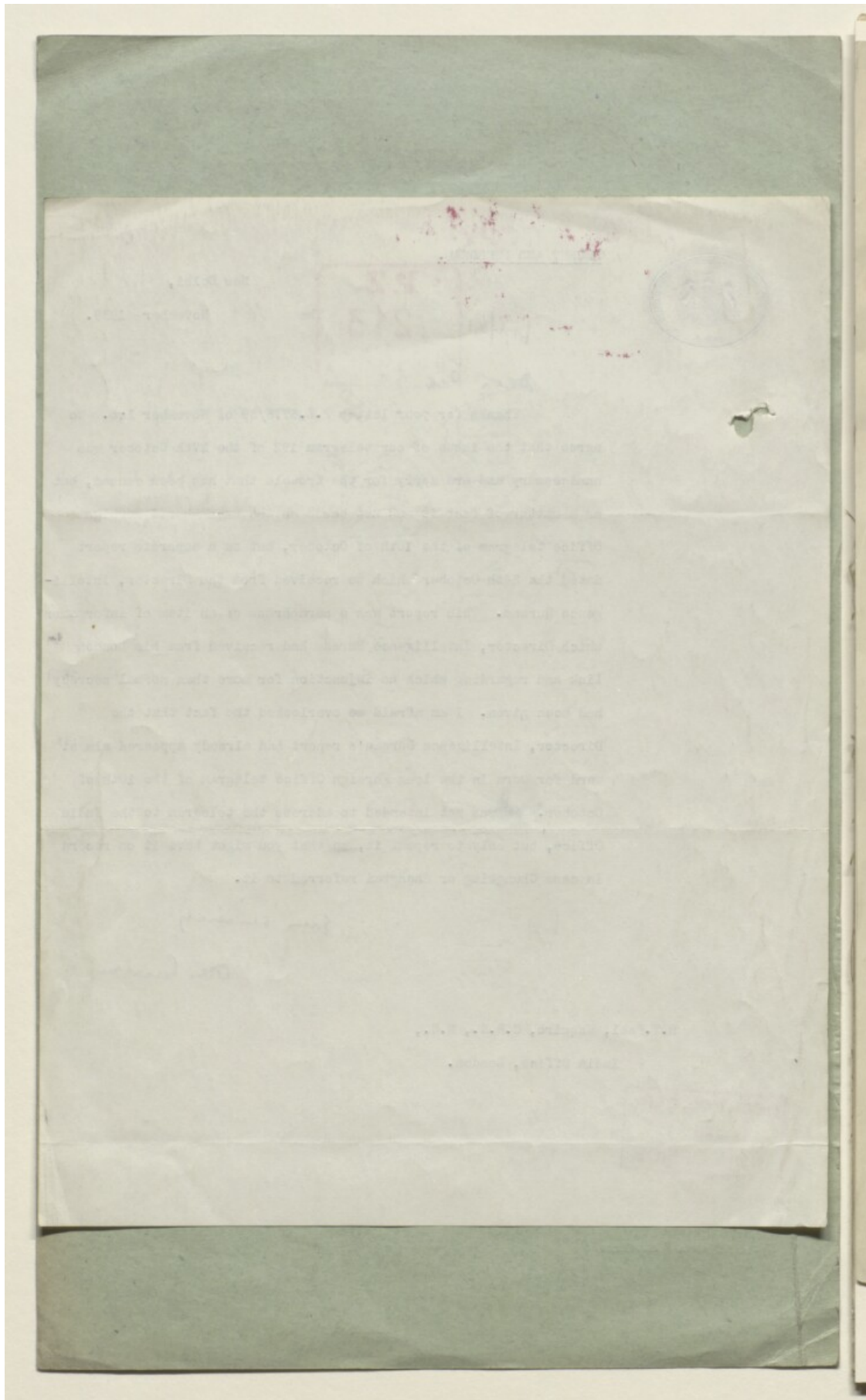
Asc.

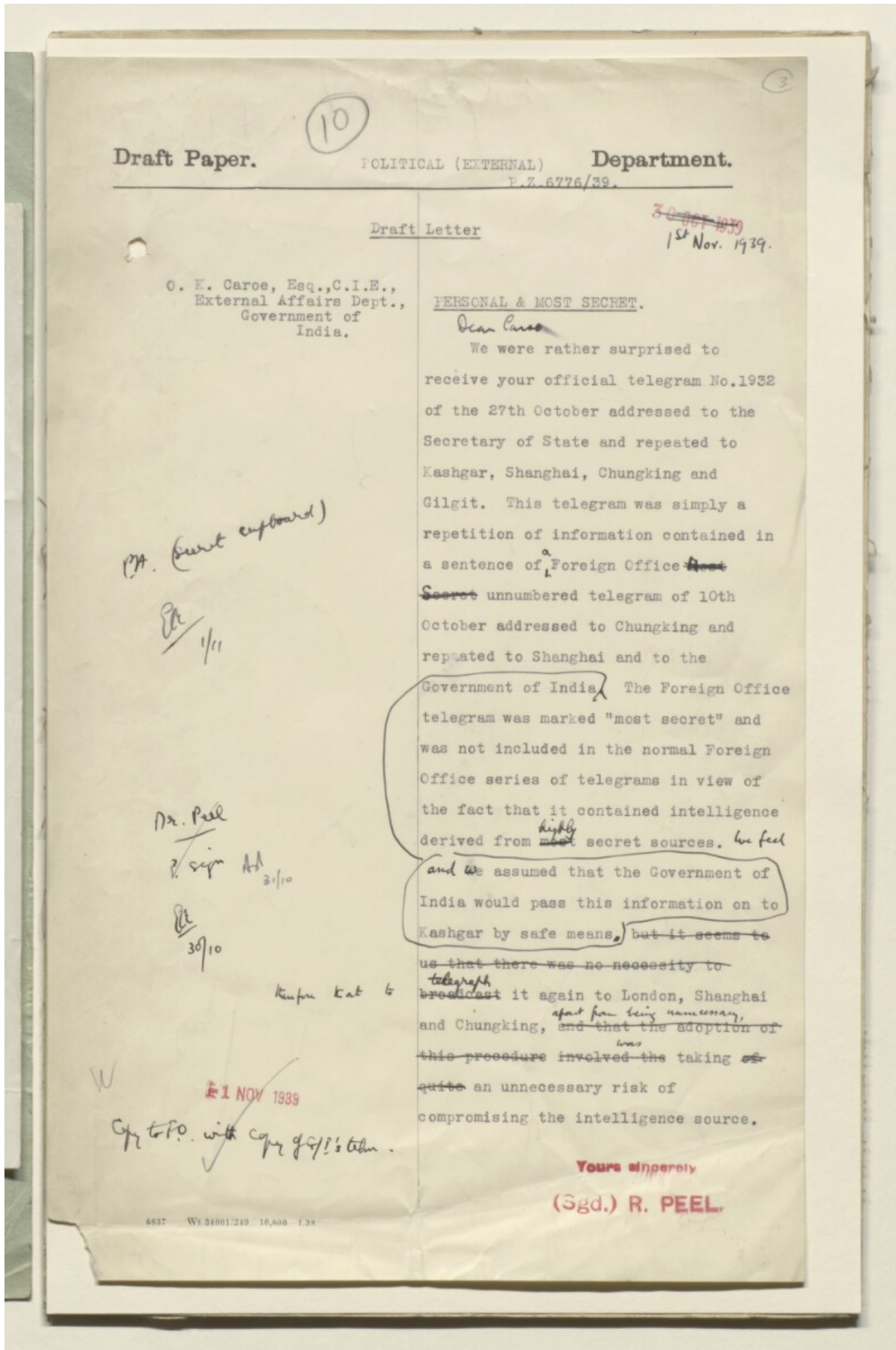
Thanks for your letter P.Z.6776/39 of November 1st. We agree that the issue of our telegram 192 of the 27th October was unnecessary and are sorry for the trouble that has been caused, but as a matter of fact it was not based on the un-numbered Foreign Office telegram of the 10th of October, but on a separate report dated the 24th October which we received from the Director, Intelligence Bureau. This report was a paraphrase of an item of information which Director, Intelligence Bureau had received from his London link and regarding which no injunction for more than normal secrecy had been given. I am afraid we overlooked the fact that the Director, Intelligence Bureau's report had already appeared almost word for word in the long Foreign Office telegram of the 10th of October. It was not intended to address the telegram to the India Office, but only to repeat it, so that you might have it on record in case Chungking or Shanghai referred to it.

Yours sincerely
R.T. Peel

R.T. Peel, Esquire, C.B.E., M.C.,
India Office, London.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
11 JAN 1940
INDIA OFFICE





Draft Paper.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

Department.

P.Z. 6776/39.

Draft Letter

~~30-11-1939~~
1st Nov. 1939.

O. K. Caroe, Esq., C.I.E.,
External Affairs Dept.,
Government of
India.

PERSONAL & MOST SECRET.

Dear Caroe

We were rather surprised to receive your official telegram No. 1932 of the 27th October addressed to the Secretary of State and repeated to Kashgar, Shanghai, Chungking and Gilgit. This telegram was simply a repetition of information contained in a sentence of a Foreign Office ~~Most Secret~~ ^a unnumbered telegram of 10th October addressed to Chungking and repeated to Shanghai and to the

PA. (Secret copyboard)

Rt
1/11

Government of India. The Foreign Office telegram was marked "most secret" and was not included in the normal Foreign Office series of telegrams in view of the fact that it contained intelligence derived from ~~most~~ ^{highly} secret sources. We feel

Mr. Peel
R. sign AH
2/10

Rt
30/10

and we assumed that the Government of India would pass this information on to Kashgar by safe means, but it seems to

Keep for Kat to

us that there was no necessity to ~~telegraph broadcast~~ it again to London, Shanghai and Chungking, ^{apart from being unnecessary,} and that the adoption of this procedure involved the taking of ~~of~~ ^{was} quite an unnecessary risk of compromising the intelligence source.

W
1 NOV 1939
Copy to P.O. with copy of G.O.'s letter.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) R. PEEL.

4537 Wt 34001/215 10,900 1.35

