OF 198
Germany, Govt 1941-43
AMERICAN EMBASSY
LONDON.

TRIPLE PRIORITY.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 5040, October 22, 5 p.m.

You may inform the Foreign Office that the President will make a public statement along the following lines as soon as word is received that the contemplated Allied declaration has been issued or at 12 noon, E.S.T. October 25 if the declaration has not then been issued in London.

QUOTE The practice of executing scores of innocent hostages in reprisal for isolated attacks on Germans in countries temporarily under the Nazi heel revolts a world already inured to suffering and brutality. Civilized peoples long ago adopted the basic principle that no man should be punished for the deed of another. Unable to apprehend the persons involved in these attacks the Nazis characteristically slaughter fifty or a hundred innocent persons. Those who would INNER QUOTE collaborate
END INNER QUOTE with Hitler or try to appease him cannot ignore this ghastly warning.

The Nazis might have learned from the last war the impossibility of breaking men's spirit by terrorism. Instead they develop their INNER QUOTE lebensraum END INNER QUOTE and INNER QUOTE new order END INNER QUOTE by depths of frightfulness which even they have never approached before. These are the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win. Frightfulness can never bring peace to Europe. It only sows the seeds of hatred which will one day bring fearful retribution END QUOTE.
CAUTION: The following statement by the President MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL until released.

Release is automatic, for the press and radio, for 12:00 noon, E.S.T., today.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President
The practice of executing scores of innocent hostages in reprisal for isolated attacks on Germans in countries temporarily under the Nazi heel revolts a world already inured to suffering and brutality. Civilized peoples long ago adopted the basic principle that no man should be punished for the deed of another. Unable to apprehend the persons involved in these attacks the Nazis characteristically slaughter fifty or a hundred innocent persons. Those who would "collaborate" with Hitler or try to appease him cannot ignore this ghastly warning.

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MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

The British and the Allied Governments contemplate issuing a declaration similar to that quoted in the attached telegram concerning the shooting of hostages by the German authorities. While practical effects of such a declaration may be slight, I believe that this Government should also forcefully declare its revulsion at this practice. There is accordingly attached a statement which, if you approve, you may wish to make to the press either concurrently with the issuance of the Allied declaration or at a fixed time. I suggest tomorrow noon.

12 noon E.S.T., Oct. 24

provisionally announced in London.
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BERLE, Adolf  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
1-8-42

Wrote to the President saying he has suggested that State and Justice jointly appoint (Nathan) Straus as inspector of German and Italian internment camps, with jurisdiction likewise to report on condition of German and Italian civilians not interned. Says he has talked to Straus but that Straus is not really interested in this job, since he would really like to be a member of the new Labor Board. Mr. Berle thinks Straus would probably take the job if the President asked him.
Welles, Hon. Sumner
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
8-1-42

Wrote to President saying that the Sec. of State yesterday received the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the Minister of Yugoslavia, and the Minister of Luxembourg, who had requested an appointment in order to present a joint communication by instruction of their Governments, with request that the Secretary lay this matter before the President. It is an appeal, on behalf of the nine Governments signatory to the Declaration made at St. James' Palace on Jan. 13, 1942, condemning acts of violence against civilians. Said he understands that a similar appeal is being made to the Governments of Great Britain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Enclosed a copy of the Declaration of January 13, signed by representatives of nine allied Governments whose countries are now under German occupation, also a copy of letter to Mr. Hull, July 30, 1942, asking that the President of the United States address a last warning to the culprits and make them understand that the determination and power of the United States of America are to be considered as a guarantee that the warning previously given will be carried into effect. The Dept. of State memorandum of conversation is dated July 31, 1942 and is on subject: German Atrocities Against Occupied Countries.

----- Originals returned (copies retained) with President's memorandum for the Under Secretary of State, Aug. 12, 1942 - "Do you think the enclosed calls for a reply on my part? If so, please prepare one -- otherwise return for my files."