

Summer Welles Papers
Box 162 Folder 1
Europe Files
France, 1941

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 17, 1941

SUBJECT: **French prisoners of war.**

PARTICIPANTS: **French Ambassador, Mr. Gaston Henry-Haye;**
Under Secretary, Mr. Welles.

COPIES TO: S, ¹⁰⁻¹⁷ A-S, Eu, PA/D.

*** 1-1400

The French Ambassador called to see me this afternoon at his request. He showed me a copy of a letter which he had sent to the President asking for an interview in order to urge the President to interpose with the British in behalf of the French prisoners of war in Germany.

The Ambassador told me that the French Government had asked the British to permit the French to purchase five hundred tons of canned beef a month from South America to be sent through the International Red Cross to the French prisoners. He said that the British had only permitted three hundred tons to be shipped, and this would make it impossible for the French prisoners
under

10-17-41

-2-

under the present conditions to have enough to live on. He said that the prisoners had nothing in the way of clothing other than what they had when they were captured, since nothing could be spared from France. He said the French had requested a half million sweaters and that the British had refused any to be shipped.

He said that the condition of health of the prisoners was exceedingly serious; that tuberculosis was beginning to make its ravages; that they were underfed, and that with the start of a new winter the death rate would be tremendous if nothing in the way of food and clothing could be sent to them.

I told the Ambassador that I regarded the request made very sympathetically and that I would personally talk with the Chairman of the American Red Cross to ascertain what suggestions he might have to make in regard to this problem.

U:SW:DFB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE:

January 10, 1941

SUBJECT: Entrance into United States and other
American Republics of refugees under
the jurisdiction of the Vichy Government

PARTICIPANTS: The French Ambassador, Mr. Gaston Henry-Haye;
the Under Secretary, Mr. Welles

COPIES TO: ¹⁻⁴ S, ¹⁻¹³ A-B, PA/D, Eu

*** 1-1688

The French Ambassador called to see me this morning.

The Ambassador spoke about the release to the press by the Department of State of the text of a note which had been addressed to the Ambassador in reply to the request of the French Government that the United States permit the entrance into the United States and arrange for the entrance into other American Republics of refugees now under the jurisdiction of the Vichy Government. He requested officially that the text of the communication addressed to this Government by the French Government should not be released to the press.