

National Archives and Records Service  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

CHURCHILL TO ROOSEVELT  
MAY - JULY 1942

Microfilmed at The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York

AMDI 3  
filed 1/2PM  
MP

Cablegram

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

May 1, 1942

7:47 A. M.

From Am Embassy, London

To The President of the United States

*Copies furnished as noted:*

No. XXXC 74, May 1, 1942

From former Naval person to President  
Number 83 many thanks for your message Number 143.  
We shall of course examine King's proposals with  
the utmost care the moment they arrive.

Prime

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAY 5 1972

Action Copy

REGIFORM-PATD-AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., INC. NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

1145

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

May 1, 1942

1:47 P.M.

From EMBASSY LONDON

To The President of the United States

Copies furnished as noted:

No 75 May 1, 1942

From former Naval Person to President personal  
and [REDACTED]. No 84.

Thank you for your telegram number 142 which is of great help to us. We have drafted terms which we propose that the force Commander should, if he can, put to the Governor at the earliest possible moment. After stating that the territory cannot be allowed to suffer the fate of Indo China and that it should be made available to those forces which are fighting to restore freedom of the world and secure the liberation of France and French Territory, the Governor is summoned to surrender the territory unconditionally and is given the following assurances. The territory will remain French. Those who elect to return to France will be repatriated as opportunity offers. The salaries and pensions of all officials who elect to cooperate will be provided for. Trade with the United Nations will be restored and the territory will receive all the economic benefits accorded to those French Territories which have already joined the United Nations.

In view of your telegram, I am including a statement that the operation has the full approval of The Government of The United States, unless I hear from you that you see objection to this.

In addition to your communication to the French Ambassador <sup>AA</sup> Washington I would urge that it is essential that the same message should also be delivered to Petain or Laval at the earliest possible moment in order that they may know what is afoot before the news reaches Vichy from Ironclad. I would suggest that you telegraph the text of your communication EN Clair to Mr. Tuck as soon as you hear from us that the operation has been launched. This will be done by code word through Field Marshal Dill, and if all goes well the news should reach you between 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM Eastern Standard time on Monday, 4th May.

Action Copy

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72

By R. H. Parks

Date

MAY 5 1972

1146

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

M.

From LONDON

To The President of the United States

Copies furnished as noted:

Message No 75 - Page 2 -

This will mean that your <sup>man</sup> Mac at Vichy will have to act any  
time after 3:00 AM Tuesday, 5th May Vichy Local Time.

If for any reason, such as weather, the operation  
has to be postponed, the force Commander will naturally  
maintain wireless silence and we shall receive no news  
for 24 or perhaps 48 hours.

PRIME

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt.. State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date

MAY 5 1972

Action Copy

AMDI 15  
2/430A  
dj

CABLEGRAM

AC-4

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

May 1, 1942

1048P M.

From LONDON

To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Copies furnished as noted:

No. 76 XXXC May 1st, 1942

Former Naval person to President personal and

No. 85.

With very great respect what you suggest is beyond our power to fulfil. Admiral King has expressed opinion that our transatlantic escorts are already too thin. Reduction proposed would dislocate convoy system for 8 weeks during which if enemy switched from your east coast to mid ocean disastrous consequences might follow to our main life line.

moreover difficulty of Russian convoys cannot be solved merely by anti submarine craft. Enemy heavy ships and destroyers may at any time strike. Even on this present P convoy we have been attacked by hostile destroyers which were beaten off with damage to one of ours. Edinburgh, one of our best 6 inch cruisers has been badly damaged by U-boats and is being towed to Murmansk where Trinidad, damaged last convoy, is still pinned. Just now I have received news that King George V has collided with our

Action Copy

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72

By R. H. Parks

Date  
MAY 5 1972

1148

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

\_\_\_\_\_ M.

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_  
~~SECRET~~

Copies furnished as noted:

Page 2 No. 76 XXXC from London May 1st, 1942  
destroyer Punjabi, Punjabi being sunk and her depth  
charges exploding have damaged King George V.  
Difficulty of Russian convoy escorts is therefore  
at least as much surface ships of high fighting  
quality as of anti submarine craft. We have made  
desperate attacks on Tirpitz in Trondheim but alas  
although near the target have not achieved any damage.

I beg you not to press us beyond our judgment  
in this operation which we have studied most intently  
and of which we have not yet been able to measure the  
full strain. I can assure Mr. President we are  
absolutely extended and I could not press the  
Admiralty further.

6 ships from Iceland have already arrived at the  
Clyde and their reloading ought to begin forthwith. 3  
convoys every 2 months with either 35 or 25 ships in  
each convoy according to experience represent extreme  
limit of what we can handle. Pound is cabling separately  
to Admiral King.

PRIME

Action Copy

~~SECRET~~  
REGFORM-PAGE-AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., INC., NISARANA FALLS, N.Y.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date 5 1972

1149

reb

Cablegram

GSWD

AMDI 8  
Filed 8/1258 AM

*In check*

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

May 7, 1942

707E M.

From London

To The President of the United States  
The White House

~~SECRET~~

Copies furnished as noted:

No. XXXC 77 May 7th

Former Naval Person to President No. 86.

Delighted to hear your good news from the  
Solomons.

Prime

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAY 5 1972

Action Copy

~~SECRET~~

RECEIVED-PAGE-AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., INC., BURGESS HILLS, N. Y.

CABLEGRAM

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

May 12, 1942

7:15 A M.

London

To The President of the United States  
White House

Number 78, May 12th, 1942. XXXC

Number 87 Former Naval Person to President  
personal and ~~secret~~.

Para 1. The evidence at present available shows that Japanese carriers are equipped with striking forces of fighter dive bombers in large numbers. Hitherto we have assessed our fighter strength as that necessary to meet the torpedo carrier or large dive bomber of which a considerably lesser number can be operated by the enemy. It is necessary to increase our own fighter aircraft strength in Eastern fleet carriers.

Para 2. Your very generous help in the delivery of fighter aircraft will permit us to operate a large increase for a time but owing to our quota ending this September and not restarting until 1943 we cannot continue to operate the fighter strength desired. A loan of 200 Martlets (which are the ideal aircraft for the purpose) has been asked for through the MAB repeat MAB to be delivered between now and December 1942. I should be very grateful for your help in this matter which I regard as most important and urgent.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAY

REDIFORM-PATD.-AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., INC., NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

MAY 5 1972

\_\_\_\_\_M.

To \_\_\_\_\_

Page #2      Number 78, May 12th, 1942.      XXXC

Para 3. There is another urgent matter to which I would like to draw your attention, namely the early supply of transport aircraft for our airborne forces. As you know we hope to use our airborne forces in operations this summer but our ability to do so depends largely on the supply of transports from the United States. Without this help, our airborne forces can only be lifted at the cost of the bombing offensive against Germany.

Para 4. Under Portals agreement with Arnold, we have already ~~been promised~~ a considerable number of transports but the most useful types will arrive too late for our purpose. Our immediate need, therefore, is to receive the largest possible number of American transports within the next few weeks at the expense, if necessary, of supplies later in the year. I therefore ask whether you could let us have 200 American transports as early in June as possible.

Para 5. In this connection I would like also to suggest that American airborne units should be sent at the same time to train and operate alongside our own

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

M.

To

Page #3      Number 78, May 12th, 1942.      XXXC

in this country. Should this suggestion meet with your approval I need hardly say that we should be delighted to have your troops with us and they would be assured of a warm welcome from our own airborne forces which Marshall reviewed with me when he was over here.

Prime

~~SECRET~~

May 12, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

There is forwarded herewith a copy of a despatch received from the Prime Minister this date.

It is requested that the Joint Chiefs of Staff prepare draft of reply for the President.

Very respectfully,

JOHN L. McCREA,  
Captain, U. S. Navy,  
Naval Aide to the President.

24215

DECLASSIFIED  
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.  
By W. J. Stewart Date MAY 5 1972

Cablegram

CSWD

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

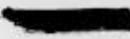
 May 20, 1942

8:50 P. M.

London

To President of the United States

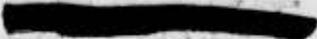
No 80 May 20th, 1942.

Personal and  to President no 88. Your no 147.

We understand and respect the generous impulse which inspires the United States air force to engage American lives in the conflict at the earliest moment. God knows we have no right to claim undue priority in the ranks of honour. Let us each do our utmost. So may it be to the end.

The sole objective must be the maximum air impact on the enemy, month by month. We have both of us to find together the highest fulfilment of this irrespective of whether British or United States pilots man the aircraft.

For this purpose a common expansion plan is necessary, and a ruthless scrutiny of reserves, discrepancies or anything clogging the pipelines. Please send Arnold and Towers at the earliest possible moment. We shall lay everything before them. Portal will return with them and if necessary I will come myself.

  
REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 8-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date

MAY 5 1972

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

[REDACTED]

M.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date

To

MAY 5 1972

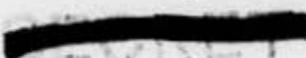
Page 2. No 80 May 20, 1942 from London

I ought to tell you however that as we understand it, General Arnolds proposals for revision of the allocations of American aircraft to the Royal Air force mean the loss of nearly 5000 aeroplanes to us this year. The effect would be to reduce by over 100 squadrons (nearly 2000 first line aeroplanes) the force which we had planned to have in action by the spring of 1943. Dependent on your expected deliveries we have already taken into service and are now training pilots, crews and mechanics for this plan, and ancillary equipment of all kinds will be available for it. Indeed, we have in active theatres of War awaiting aeroplanes at this moment about 30 squadrons, some of them veteran units which have lost their equipment in action.

I hope Mr President you will not take any final decision without considering how these hundred squadrons are to be replaced by American units on the various battle fronts by the dates expected. Without your assurance on these points the whole structure of our plans would collapse, and an entirely new view of the War

[REDACTED]

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

 \_\_\_\_\_ M.

To \_\_\_\_\_

Page 3. No 80 May 20, 1942 from London

would have to be taken. Former Naval person

PRIME

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British  
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72  
By R. H. Parks Date

MAY 5 1972