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MAP ROOM PAPERS

Box 9

Roosevelt to Stalin

January - June, 1944

~~SECRET~~
FROM: THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER

TO : MARSHAL STALIN

DATE: 23 JANUARY 1944

With regard to the handing over to the Soviets of Italian shipping asked for by the Soviet Government at the Moscow Conference and agreed to with you by us both at Teheran, we have received a memorandum by the Combined Chiefs of Staff contained in our immediately following telegram. For the reasons set out in this memorandum we think it would be dangerous to our triple interests actually to carry out any transfer or to say anything about it to the Italians until their co-operation is no longer of operational importance.

Nevertheless, if after full consideration you desire us to proceed, we will make a secret approach to Badoglio with a view to concluding the necessary arrangements without their becoming generally known to Italian Naval Forces. If in this way agreement could be reached, such arrangements with Italian Naval authorities as were necessary could be left to him. These arrangements would have to be on the lines that Italian ships selected should be sailed to suitable Allied port where they would be collected by Russian crews who would sail into Russian northern ports which are the only ones now open where any refitting necessary would be undertaken.

We are, however, very conscious of dangers of above course for the reasons we have laid before you and we have, therefore, decided to

SECRET
PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER—STALIN,
23 JANUARY 1944.

propose the following alternative, which, from the military point of view, has many advantages.

The British battleship, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, has recently completed refitting in the U.S.A. She is fitted with radar for all types of armament. The United States will make one light cruiser available at approximately the same time.

His Majesty's Government and the United States are willing for their part that these vessels should be taken over at British ports by Soviet crews and sailed to North Russian ports. You could then make such alterations as you find necessary for Arctic conditions.

These vessels would be temporarily transferred on loan to the Soviet and would fly the Soviet flag until without prejudice to military operations the Italian vessels can be made available.

His Majesty's Government and the United States will each arrange to provide 20,000 tons of merchant shipping to be available as soon as practicable and until the Italian merchant ships can be obtained without prejudice to projected essential operations OVERLORD-ANVIL.

This alternative has the advantage that the Soviet Government would obtain the use of vessels at a very much earlier date than if they all had to be refitted and rendered suitable for northern waters. Thus if our efforts should take a favorable turn with Turks and the Straits become open these vessels would be ready to operate in the Black Sea. We hope you will very carefully consider this alternative which we think is in every way superior to first proposal.

SECRET ROOSEVELT. CHURCHILL.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

FROM: THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER

TO : MARSHAL STALIN

DATE: 23 JANUARY 1944

Our Combined Chiefs of Staff have made the following positive recommendation with supporting data:

(a) The present time is inopportune for effecting the transfer of captured Italian ships because of pending Allied operations.

(b) To enforce the transfer at this time would remove needed Italian resources now employed in current operations, would interfere with assistance now being given by Italian repair facilities, might cause the scuttling of Italian war ships, and result in loss of Italian cooperation thus jeopardizing OVERLORD and ANVIL.

(c) At the earliest moment permitted by operations the implementation of the delivery of Italian vessels may proceed.

ROOSEVELT. CHURCHILL.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

BACKGROUND OF TWO MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER TO MARSHAL STALIN, 23 JANUARY 1944.

For complete record of action, see "MR 450 ITALY (2) Sec. 1 - Transfer of Italian ships to Soviet."

POTUS-PM, #437, 8 Jan 1944. The PRESIDENT informs the PRIME MINISTER that HARRIMAN has requested information on action taken to carry out commitments made to STALIN at Teheran for transfer of Italian ships to Soviet. Since Chief of Staff have raised objection to transfer of these ships, the PRESIDENT requests the PRIME MINISTER's views.

PM-POTUS, #543, 9 Jan 1944. Answers POTUS #437. The PRIME MINISTER agrees that Teheran decision must be carried out, and states that he hopes to submit a draft for joint message to STALIN.

PM-POTUS, #545, 16 Jan 1944. Further to PM #543. The PRIME MINISTER submits draft for a joint message to STALIN, offering Soviets the use of British and American ships in lieu of Italian ships.

HARRIMAN-POTUS, 160711, 16 Jan 1944. HARRIMAN requests information on status of transfer of Italian ships.

POTUS-HARRIMAN, 18 Jan 1944. The PRESIDENT informs HARRIMAN that Italian ships question is under consideration, and that something will be forthcoming in next few days.

PM-POTUS, #444, 19 Jan 1944. Answers PM #545. The PRESIDENT submits for the PRIME MINISTER's approval a revised draft of joint message to STALIN informing STALIN that the Chiefs of Staff are opposed to immediate transfer of Italian ships; offering loan of Allied battleship, cruiser, and merchant ships; and stating that an effort will be made to obtain from the surrendered Italian ships the 8 destroyers and 4 submarines.

POTUS-PM, #445, 19 Jan 1944. Further to POTUS #444. Submits for the PRIME MINISTER's approval a draft of joint message to STALIN informing STALIN of the objections of the Combined Chiefs of Staff to transfer of Italian ships.

PM-POTUS, #550, 21 Jan 1944. Answers POTUS #444 and #445. The PRIME MINISTER agrees to PRESIDENT's suggested draft of joint messages to STALIN, with the exception of paragraph stating that 8 destroyers and 4 submarines will be obtained from the surrendered Italian ships.

POTUS-PM, #447, 22 Jan 1944. Answers PM #550. The PRESIDENT agrees to omission of paragraph as suggested by the PRIME MINISTER, and requests that he be informed when the message is sent.

- Status Shal -
SECRET

- 1 -

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

PM-POTUS, #551, 23 Jan 1944. Acknowledges POTUS #447. The PRIME MINISTER advises that he has sent the joint messages to STALIN, and that HARRIMAN is being informed.

The two messages to STALIN, signed jointly by the PRESIDENT and the PRIME MINISTER, were dispatched from London to Moscow on 23 January 1944, through British communication channels.

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

[REDACTED]
FROM: THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER

TO : MARSHALL STALIN

DATE: 7 FEBRUARY 1944

The receipt is acknowledged of your message in regard to handing over Italian shipping to the Soviet.

It is our intention to carry out the transfer agreed to at Teheran at the earliest date practicable without hazarding the success of ANVIL and OVERLORD which operations we all agree should be given first priority in our common effort to defeat Germany at the earliest possible date.

There is no thought of not carrying through the transfers agreed at Teheran. The British battleship and the American cruiser can be made available without any delay, and an effort will be made at once to make available from the British Navy the eight destroyers. Four submarines will also be provided temporarily by Great Britain.

I am convinced that disaffecting the Italian Navy at this time would be what you have so aptly termed an unnecessary diversion and that it would adversely affect the prospects of our success in France.

ROOSEVELT. CHURCHILL.

This message to STALIN, signed jointly by the PRESIDENT and the PRIME MINISTER, was dispatched from London to Moscow on 7 February 1944, through British communication channels, (See attached background material).

[REDACTED]
REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BACKGROUND OF MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER TO
MARSHAL STALIN, 7 FEBRUARY 1944.

STALIN-POTUS/PM, 29 Jan 1944. STALIN accepts the offer of the British battleship ROYAL SOVEREIGN, a United States cruiser, and 40,000 tons of merchant vessels. Also agrees that, instead of Italian destroyers and submarines, the Soviet Union be given the same number of American or English destroyers and submarines.

PM-POTUS, #562, 1 Feb 1944. The PRIME MINISTER quotes to the PRESIDENT the above message which he has also received from STALIN.

PM-POTUS, #565, 3 Feb 1944. Further to PM #562. The PRIME MINISTER states that his Majesty's Government is prepared to send 8 destroyers to the Russians, but suggests that the United States supply the 4 submarines.

POTUS-PM, #456, 4 Feb 1944. Answers PM #565. The PRESIDENT submits draft of reply to STALIN; accepts offer of British to supply 8 destroyers; and suggests that the 4 submarines be taken from the Italians.

PM-POTUS, #567, 5 Feb 1944. Answers POTUS #456. The PRIME MINISTER agrees to the PRESIDENT's draft message to STALIN, with exception that the British will provide the 4 submarines as well as the destroyers.

POTUS-PM, #458, 7 Feb 1944. Answers PM #567. The PRESIDENT agrees to changes in message to STALIN as suggested by the PRIME MINISTER.

PM-POTUS, #572, 7 Feb 1944. Answers POTUS #458. The PRIME MINISTER informs the PRESIDENT that he has sent the message, as amended, to STALIN.

POTUS-PM, #462, 9 Feb 1944. Acknowledges PM #572. The PRESIDENT states that he will be very much interested in STALIN's reply.

The message to STALIN, signed jointly by the PRESIDENT and the PRIME MINISTER, was dispatched from London to Moscow on 7 February 1944, through British communication channels.

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

- Status sheet -
[REDACTED]
- 1 -

F. J. W.S.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY

In order to avoid further delay in the delivery of your message to Stalin, if you approve we propose to send the attached telegram to Ambassador Harriman who had obviously not received the one dispatched last night on the subject in accordance with your wishes.

The redraft suggested by Mr. Harriman in his 429, February 9, a copy of which is enclosed, retains almost in its entirety the original language with some slight rearrangement of the last paragraph. I believe that the reference to Molotov's proposal of January 18 should not be omitted as he suggests since that is the last official direct indication we have from the Soviet Government on the subject of the composition of the Polish Government. Indication of Stalin's abandonment of this position comes as far as this Government is concerned entirely from reports of the British Ambassador's conversation with Stalin.

E. A. Tamm

Enclosures:

1. To Ambassador Harriman.
2. Telegram no. 429, February 9, from Moscow.

W. F. W.B.



10 February 1944.

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WSP

US URGENT AND MOST IMMEDIATE

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
MOSCOW.

PERSONAL AND ██████████ FROM THE PRESIDENT AND
ACTING SECRETARY.

It is obvious that our 269, February 9, had not been received before the dispatch of your 429 with reference to the President's message to Stalin.

In view of the instructions to deliver the message to Molotov contained in our telegram under reference and the fact that the Secretary has left on short vacation, the President feels that the message should be delivered immediately to Molotov for transmission to Stalin with the changes authorized in accordance with the suggestions contained in your 423, February 8, midnight.

EE:CEB:EB
2/10/44

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

HEL - 997
This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (MCA)

Moscow

Dated February 9, 1944

Rec'd 6:50 a.m., 10th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

U.S. URGENT AND MOST IMMEDIATE

429, February 9, 11 a.m.

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] FOR THE PRESIDENT AND
THE SECRETARY ONLY.

In view of Stalin's absence and the consequent
delay in my being able to deliver your message to him
I have taken the liberty of redrafting your cable in
light of my many talks with Molotov, my talk with Stalin
and the British Ambassador's most recent talks and
discussions with Stalin. I have attempted not to change
in any way the thoughts you wish to convey as I under-
stand them and to adhere closely with some rearrangement
to the words you have used but to present them in a
manner which I feel will register most effectively in
Stalin's mind (your 236, February 7, 7 p.m. and my 423
February 8, Midnight).

I hope that my reasons for the modification I have
made will be self-evident. The only part that perhaps
needs

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-72
By PHR Date APR 14 1972

-2-, #429, February 9, 11 a.m., from Moscow.

needs explanation is the omission of your reference to Molotov's proposal made to me on January 18 of the fantastic concept for the formation of an entirely new Polish Government bringing in citizens of the United States. I am afraid that if you dignify this proposal it will place Stalin on the defensive in reference to an idea which he does not appear to be putting forward now. In previous and more recent conversations Molotov and Stalin have given both the British Ambassador and myself the impression that they are ready to deal with the Polish Government in London providing it is reconstructed on a more reasonable fashion.

I earnestly hope that serious consideration may be given to this redraft the text of which is as follows:

"I have been following with the closest attention the recent developments in your relations with Poland. As a result of our intimate conversations at Tehran I feel that I have an understanding of your views on the subject and I regard this cable as a continuation of these conversations having in mind the developments that have taken place since that time.

First of all let me make plain what I am sure you already know that I neither desire nor intend to attempt to suggest much less to advise you in any way as to

where

-3-, #429, February 9, 11 a.m., from Moscow.

where the interests of Russia lie in this matter since I realize to the full that the future security of your country is rightly your primary concern. The observations which I am about to make are prompted solely by the larger issues which affect the common goal toward which we are both working.

The overwhelming majority of our people and Congress as you know welcomed with enthusiasm the broad principles subscribed to at the Moscow and Tehran Conferences and I know that you agree with me that it is of the utmost importance that faith in these understandings should not be left in any doubt. Entirely apart from any question as to the merits of the issues involved the people of the United States and I believe the world over are viewing the Polish question as the first important and pressing international problem that has arisen since our conferences and therefore as an indication of the manner in which international questions generally are likely to be dealt with in the future.

HARRIMAN

HPD

REV. - 988
This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (HCA)

Moscow

Dated February 9, 1944

Rec'd 11:55 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE

429, February 9, 11 a.m.

PERSONAL AND ██████████ FOR THE PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY ONLY.

This is part two.

I feel it is of the utmost importance that the various differences which inevitably arise in the conduct of international relationships should not be permitted to jeopardize the major all important question of cooperation and collaboration among nations which is the only sound basis for just and lasting peace. While public opinion is forming in support of international collaboration it is especially incumbent upon us to avoid any action which might appear to counteract the achievement of our long range objective. I am sure that a solution can be found which would fully protect the interests of Russia and satisfy your desire to see a friendly, independent Poland, and at the same time not adversely affect

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State Dept. letter, 1-11-72

By REVER Date APR 14 1972

-2-, #429, February 9, 11 a.m., from Moscow.

affect support for cooperation so splendidly established at Moscow and Tehran.

I fully appreciate your desire to deal only with a Polish Government in which you can repose confidence and which can be counted upon to establish permanent friendly relations with the Soviet Union. But it is my earnest hope that, while this problem remains unsolved, nothing should be done to transform this special question into one adversely affecting the larger issues of future international collaboration.

Prime Minister Churchill tells me that he is endeavoring to persuade the Polish Prime Minister to make a clean cut acceptance as a basis for negotiation of the territorial changes which have been proposed by your Government. Is it not possible, on that basis, to arrive at some answer to the question of the composition of the Polish Government which would leave it to the Polish Prime Minister himself to make such changes in his Government as may be necessary without any evidence of pressure or dictation from a foreign country?

As a matter of timing, it seems to me that the first consideration at this time should be that the Polish guerrillas should work with and not against your advancing troops.

-3-, #429, February 9, 11 a.m., from Moscow.

troops. That is of current importance and some assurance on the part of all Poles to this end would be of great advantage as a first step in the establishment of firm and lasting goodwill between your country and the Poles."

HARRIMAN

HPD

FROM Marshal Stalin	TO The President
SERIAL Unnumbered	DATE 7 February 1944
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	
TOR MAP ROOM	VIA
SUBJECT Russian-Polish relations.	

ACTION

Prepared by State Department, approved by President, and sent to Stalin thru State Department channels.

Filed with this message is Harriman's message to the President and Secretary #429, 9 Feb 44, and the President's and the Acting Secretary's reply of 10 Feb 1944.

Answered by PRES-STALIN message of 16 Feb 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:	

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U.S. URGENT
AMERICAN EMBASSY
MOSCOW.

7 February 1949

██████████ FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY.

Please seek immediate interview with Stalin and
deliver to him the following secret message from the
President:

(CODE ROOM: Please quote the attached telegram
to Stalin.)

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By V. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

~~RESTRICTED~~
THE WHITE HOUSE

No Distribution
7 February 44

~~SECRET~~
MARSHAL JOSEPH STALIN,
THE KREMLIN,
MOSCOW.

I have followed with the closest attention the recent developments in your relations with Poland. I feel that I am fully aware of your views on the subject and am therefore taking this opportunity of communicating with you on the basis of our conversations at Tehran. First of all, let me make it plain that I neither desire nor intend to attempt to suggest much less to advise you in any way as to where the interests of Russia lie in this matter since I realize to the full that the future security of your country is ^{rightly} ~~one~~ of your primary concerns. The observations which I am about to make are prompted solely by the larger issues which affect the common goal towards which we are both working.

The overwhelming majority of our people and Congress, as you know, welcomed with enthusiasm the broad principles subscribed to at the Moscow and Tehran Conferences, and

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

I know that you agree with me that it is of the utmost importance that faith in these understandings should not be left in any doubt. I am sure that a solution can be found which would fully protect the interests of Russia and satisfy your desire to see a friendly, independent Poland, and at the same time not adversely affect the cooperation so splendidly established at Moscow and Tehran. I feel that it is of the utmost importance that we should bear in mind that the various differences which inevitably arise in the conduct of international relations should not be permitted to jeopardize the major all important question of cooperation and collaboration among nations which is the only sound basis for a just and lasting peace.

I have given careful consideration to the views of your Government as outlined by Mr. Molotov to Mr. Harriman on January 18 regarding the impossibility from the Soviet point of view of having any dealings with the Polish Government-in-exile in its present form and Mr. Molotov's suggestion that the Polish Government should be reconstituted by the inclusion of Polish elements at present in the

United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union. I fully appreciate your desire to deal only with a Polish Government in which you can repose confidence and which can be counted upon to establish permanent friendly relations with the Soviet Union, but it is my earnest hope that while this problem remains unsolved neither party shall by hasty word or unilateral act transform this special question into one adversely affecting the larger issues of future international collaboration. While public opinion is forming in support of the principle of international collaboration, it is especially incumbent upon us to avoid any action which might appear to counteract the achievement of our long-range objective. I feel I should ill serve our common interest if I failed to bring these facts to your attention.

Prime Minister Churchill tells me that he is endeavoring to persuade the Polish Prime Minister to make a clean-cut acceptance as a basis for negotiation of the territorial changes which have been proposed by your Government. Is

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

-4-

it not possible on that basis to arrive at some answer to the question of the composition of the Polish Government which would leave it to the Polish Prime Minister himself to make such changes in his Government as may be necessary without any evidence of pressure or dictation from a foreign country?

(In President's handwriting)

As a matter of timing it seems to me that the first consideration at this time should be that Polish guerillas should work with and not against your advancing troops. That is of current importance and some assurance on the part of all Poles would be of great advantage as a first step.

ROOSEVELT

2/1/44

February 1, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

With reference to our conversation of yesterday relative to the question of Polish-Soviet relations there are attached for your consideration revised drafts of the telegrams to Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin.

Attachments:

1. To Churchill.
2. To Stalin.

President replied: 7 Feb 1944. MEMORANDUM FOR HON.
CORDELL HULL: I think these messages are all right but I
am adding a paragraph at the end of the message to Stalin.
What do you think of it?

F.D.R.

Carbon copies delivered to
Secretary of State's office at
1840, Feb 10, to be transmitted
in State Department Code.

SECRET
PRIORITY

17 February 1944

From: Opnav

To : Alusna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

Replying to your message of January 29, I am pleased to inform you that the following United States ships are available for temporary use by the Naval Command of the U.S.S.R. until adequate Italian tonnage to replace them can be placed at the disposal of the Soviet Union.

The merchant ship (10,000 tons) "HARRY PERCY," now at Glasgow.

The merchant ship "JOHN GORRIE" (10,000 tons), now at Liverpool.

The cruiser "MILWAUKEE" will arrive in some port in the United Kingdom March 8.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1155, EWT, 17 February 1944

L. MATHEWSON,
Colonel, General Staff.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

SECRET
171628 NCR 6967

February 17, 1944

PRESIDENT TO PREMIER STALIN:

Replying to your message of January 29, I am pleased to inform you that the following United States ships are available for temporary use by the Naval Command of the U.S.S.R. until adequate Italian tonnage to replace them can be placed at the disposal of the Soviet Union.

The merchant ship (10,000 tons) "HARRY PERCY", now at Glasgow.

The merchant ship "JOHN GORRIE" (10,000 tons), now at Liverpool.

The cruiser "MILWAUKEE" will arrive in some port in the United Kingdom March 8.

Roosevelt

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By N. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

171623 NCR 6967

FROM	THE PRESIDENT	TO	MARSHAL STALIN
SERIAL	Unnumbered	DATE	17 Feb 44
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	171623 NCR 6967		
FOR MAP ROOM	--	VIA	--
SUBJECT Transfer of Italian ships to Soviet.			

ACTION

Answers STALIN-POTUS, 29 Jan 44. /

Reply prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved by President;
sent to CR at 1155Q, 17 Feb 44.

Answered by Stalin in his message of 21 Feb 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:

ACTION COMPLETED:

FILED:

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
PRIORITY

19 FEBRUARY 1944

FROM: OPNAV
TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH KEEN INTEREST AND DEEP
SATISFACTION THE RECENT SUCCESSES OF YOUR TROOPS, ESPECIALLY
IN THE UKRAINE AND IN THE NORTHWEST. MY CONGRATULATIONS AND
BEST WISHES.

ROOSEVELT

ak
Released from the White House Map Room,
1820, EMT, 19 February 1944.

Allen Kniffen
ALLEN KNIFFEN
Captain, C.E.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

19 February 1944

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

It now appears certain beyond a reasonable doubt that upwards of 35,000 Germans were eliminated (captured or killed) by the recent Russian push in the Ukraine. This is two good divisions, an important kill no matter how you look at it.

The thought occurs you might wish to avail yourself of this opportunity to sweeten U.J. a little. If so, draft of proposed message is attached hereto.


L. MATHESON,
Colonel, General Staff.

1 Incl.
Proposed message to
Marshal Stalin.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By F. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

19 February 1944

THE PRESIDENT TO MARSHAL STALIN

We have been following with keen interest and deep satisfaction the recent successes of your troops, especially in the Ukraine. ^{and in the Northwest} My congratulations and best wishes.

O. Roosevelt

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

~~SECRET~~

FROM The President	TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL --	DATE 19 February 1944
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER 192303 NCR 7468	
FOR MAP ROOM --	VIA --
SUBJECT Congratulations to STALIN on successes in Ukraine.	

ACTION

Draft of dispatch written by Col Mathewson; approved by President with minor changes; sent to CR at 1820Q, 19 Feb 44.

Answered by STALIN-POTUS, 25 Feb 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:

ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:
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~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
PRIORITY

21 FEBRUARY 1944

FROM: OPNAV
TO : ALUSHA, MOSCOW

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

I am informed as to the text of the message sent to you on February 20th by Mr. Churchill on the subject of a tentative settlement of the Polish post-war boundary by agreement between the Soviet and the Polish Governments.

This suggestion by the Prime Minister, if accepted, goes far toward advancing our prospects of an early defeat of Germany and I am pleased to recommend that you give to it favorable and sympathetic consideration.

As I intimated before, I think the most realistic problem of the moment is to be assured that your armies will be assisted by the Poles when you get into Poland.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1525, EWT, 21 Feb 1944.

Franklin H. Graham
FRANKLIN H. GRAHAM,
1st Lieutenant, AGO.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

~~SECRET~~
- 1 -

JH

211955 NOR 7608
Rec'd 2/14/30Z

Delivered Moscow 22/1430/44.

February 21, 1944

PRESIDENT TO STALIN.

I am informed as to the text of the message sent to you on February 20th by Mr. Churchill on the subject of a tentative settlement of the Polish post war boundary by agreement between the Soviet and the Polish Governments.

This suggestion by the Prime Minister, if accepted, goes far toward advancing our prospects of an early defeat of Germany and I am pleased to recommend that you give to it favorable and sympathetic consideration.

~~In view of the large number of citizens of the United States who are of Polish descent, it is of much importance to me that the Polish dispute be adjudicated without any avoidable delay.~~

As I intimated before I think the most realistic problem of the moment is to be assured that your armies will ~~not~~ be assisted by the Poles when you get into Poland

Roosevelt

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By E. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

~~SECRET~~
FROM: ALUSNA MOSCOW

TO : CNO

NO : 230721 NCR 2520, 23 FEBRUARY 1944

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~ FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM HARRIMAN.

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR 211953 FEBRUARY TO MARSHAL STALIN REGARDING POLAND. THE CABLE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MARSHAL STALIN TO WHICH YOU REFER IS BEING HELD BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR FOR DELIVERY TO STALIN PERSONALLY ON HIS RETURN TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN ARGUMENTS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS INSTRUCTED HIM TO PRESENT TO MARSHAL STALIN ORALLY. AT THE REQUEST OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND UNLESS YOU INSTRUCT ME OTHERWISE I AM POSTPONING DELIVERY OF YOUR CABLE UNTIL I KNOW STALIN HAS RETURNED TO MOSCOW SO THAT IT WILL REACH HIM JUST PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF THE PRIME MINISTER MESSAGE BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-72

By BLP Date APR 14 1972

~~SECRET~~

ORIGINAL filed "PRESIDENT-HARRIMAN" file.

COPY

- 1 -

SECRET
FROM: OPNAV

TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

NO : 231517 NCR 7945, 23 FEBRUARY 1944

FOR AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN FROM THE PRESIDENT.

RECEIPT IS ACKNOWLEDGED OF YOUR 250721.

YOUR ACTION IN POSTPONING DELIVERY IS APPROVED.

ROOSEVELT

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

SECRET

ORIGINAL filed "PRESIDENT-HARRIMAN" file.

COPY

- 1 -

FROM THE PRESIDENT	TO MARSHAL STALIN
SERIAL Unnumbered	DATE 21 Feb 44.
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER 192303 NCR 7468	
FOR MAP ROOM	VIA
SUBJECT Russian-Polish situation.	
ACTION	
<p>See STALIN-POTUS, 16 Feb 44, filed herein. For message from the PM to STALIN, see PM-POTUS, #685, 20 Feb 44.</p> <p>Draft prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved by President with minor changes; sent to CR at 1525Q, 21 Feb; sent to PM for his information as POTUS #475, 21 Feb 44.</p> <p>(Ambassador Harriman, in his 230721 Feb to the President, informs that he is delaying delivery of cable until Stalin returns to Moscow, so that it may be presented with British Ambassador's message. POTUS-HARRIMAN, 231517 Feb, approves Harriman's action in postponing delivery. Copies of both messages are filed herein with copy of POTUS-STALIN 21 Feb 44.)</p>	
COPIES TO:	DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:
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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:

~~SECRET~~

23 FEBRUARY 1944

PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV

TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

MARSHAL STALIN FROM THE PRESIDENT.

I have received your message of February 21 regarding the loan of Anglo-American ships to the Soviet Navy.

It was my understanding that Great Britain would provide the one battleship, the eight destroyers and the four submarines. I have telegraphed to Prime Minister Churchill in regard to this and will let you know when I hear from him.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1130, ENT, 23 Feb 44.

L. MATHEWSON,
Colonel, General Staff.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

~~SECRET~~

- 1 -

236*

231559 NGA 7950

February 23, 1944

PRESIDENT TO STALIN.

I have received your message of February 21 regarding the loan of Anglo-American ships to the Soviet Navy.

It was my understanding that Great Britain would provide the one battleship, the eight destroyers and the four submarines. I have telegraphed to Prime Minister Churchill in regard to this and will let you know when I hear from him.

Roosevelt
WAL

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 14 1972

FROM	THE PRESIDENT	TO	MARSHAL STALIN
SERIAL	Unnumbered	DATE	23 Feb 44.
DATE/TIME			
OR FILE NUMBER		231559 NCR 7950	
TOR MAP ROOM	--	VIA	--
SUBJECT Transfer of Italian ships to Soviet.			

ACTION

Answers STALIN-POTUS, 21 Feb 44, which was referred to Admiral Leahy for action. Reply prepared and sent by Admiral Leahy; copy sent to President at Hyde Park via pouch. (Copy of this dispatch also sent to PM as #475.)

Upon receipt of PM-POTUS #590, further reply sent to STALIN on 24 Feb 44.

Answered by STALIN-PRES & PM, 26 Feb 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:	

SECRET

23 February 1944

PRIORITY

From: Opanv

To : Alusna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

In recent months a number of important steps have been taken by the Governments of the United Nations toward laying the foundations for post-war cooperative action in the various fields of international economic relations. You will recall that the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, held in May, 1943, gave rise to an Interim Commission which is now drafting recommendations to lay before the various governments for a permanent organization in this field. More recently, there has been established -- and is now in operation -- the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. For nearly a year, there have been informal technical discussions at the expert level among many of the United Nations on mechanisms for international monetary stabilization; these discussions are preparatory to a possible convocation of an United Nations Monetary Conference. Similar discussions have been taking place, though on a more restricted scale, with regard to the possibility of establishing mechanisms for facilitating international developmental investment. To some extent, informal discussions have taken place among some of the United Nations with regard to such questions as commercial policy, commodity policy, and cartels. Discussions are in contemplation on such questions as commercial aviation, oil, and others. In April a conference of the International Labor Organization will take place, in part for the purpose of considering the future activities of that organization.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

[REDACTED]

- 1 -
delivered by post 4/24/44 231828 NCR 7986

~~SECRET~~

In a document presented by the Secretary of State at the Moscow meeting of Foreign Ministers, entitled "Bases of our Program for International Economic Cooperation", the need was emphasized for both informal discussions and formal conferences on various economic problems. It was suggested that "the time has come for the establishment of a Commission comprising representatives of the principal United Nations and possibly certain others of the United Nations for the joint planning of the procedures to be followed in these matters".

It is clear to me that there is a manifest need for United Nations machinery for joint planning of the procedures by which consideration should be given to the various fields of international economic cooperation, the subjects which should be discussed, the order of discussion, and the means of coordinating existing and prospective arrangements and activities. I do not mean to raise at this time and in this connection the broader issues of international organization for the maintenance of peace and security. Preliminary discussions on this subject are currently in contemplation between our three governments under the terms of the Moscow Protocol. What I am raising here is the question of further steps toward the establishment of United Nations machinery for post-war economic collaboration, which was raised by the Secretary of State at the Moscow meeting and was discussed by you, Prime Minister Churchill, and myself at Teheran.

I should appreciate it very much if you would give me your views on the suggestion made by the Secretary of State at Moscow, together with any other thoughts as to the best procedures to be followed in this

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DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]
extremely important matter.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1320, EWT, 23 February 1944

OGDEN S. COLLINS
Lieut.(jg), USNR

[REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

FROM THE PRESIDENT	TO MARSHAL STALIN
SERIAL Unnumbered	DATE 23 Feb 44.
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER 23/1828 NCR 7986	
TOP MAP ROOM --	VIA --
SUBJECT Post-War Planning.	

ACTION

Prepared by State Department; approved by President; sent to CR at 1320Q, 23 Feb 44. (Same message sent to PM as #476).

Answered by STALIN-POTUS 10 Mar 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:

ACTION COMPLETED:

MR 380

FILED:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

FEBRUARY 23, 1944
NO. 57

The President has sent the following message to Marshal Joseph V. Stalin on the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army:

"February 22, 1944

"HIS EXCELLENCY

"JOSEPH V. STALIN,

"SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
"MOSCOW.

"On this twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army I wish to convey to you as Supreme Commander my sincere congratulations on the great and significant victories of the armed forces of the Soviet Union during the past year.

"The magnificent achievements of the Red Army under your leadership have been an inspiration to all. The heroic defense of Leningrad has been crowned and rewarded by the recent crushing defeat of the enemy before its gates. Millions of Soviet citizens have been freed from enslavement and oppression by the victorious advance of the Red Army.

"These achievements together with the collaboration and cooperation which was agreed upon at Moscow and Tehran assure our final victory over the Nazi aggressors.

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

• • •

~~SECRET~~

24 FEBRUARY 1944

PRIORITY

FROM: OPHAV

TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

FOR MARSHAL STALIN FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Referring to my message of 23 February 1944, I have had a reply from the Prime Minister, and our understanding as expressed to you is now confirmed.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1655, EWT, 24 Feb 44.

L. MATHEWSON,
Colonel, General Staff.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

~~SECRET~~

- 1 -

RWB

292133 NCR 8223
Pul 2508302

FROM	THE PRESIDENT	TO	MARSHAL STALIN
SERIAL	Unnumbered	DATE	24 Feb 44
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	242133 NCR 8223		
TOR MAP ROOM	--	VIA	--
SUBJECT Transfer of Italian ships to Soviet.			

ACTION

Further answer to STALIN-POTUS, 21 Feb 44. (See reply sent to STALIN on 23 Feb 44.)

Answer prepared by Admiral Leahy.

(See also POTUS-PM #476, and PM-POTUS #590.)

Answered by STALIN-PRES & PM, 26 Feb 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:
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SECRET.

3 March 1944

URGENT

From: Opnav

To : Alusna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

In reply to insistent questioning at a press conference today I stated that Italian merchant ships and war ships are now being used in our war effort by the Allied Mediterranean command and that some of the Italian ships or substitutes therefor from the British and American tonnage will be allocated to the Soviet Navy to assist in their requirements for their war effort.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1205, ENT, 3 March 1944.

L. MATHEWSON,
Colonel, General Staff.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

RS-HWP

SECRET
031628 NR 9464

[REDACTED]
March 3, 1944.

PRESIDENT TO MARSHAL STALIN

In reply to insistent questioning at a press conference today I stated that Italian merchant ships and war ships are now being used in our war effort by the allied Mediterranean command and that some of the Italian ships or substitutes therefor from the British and American tonnage will be allocated to the Soviet Navy to assist in their requirements for their war effort.

*Roosevelt
W.J.S.*

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

FROM	The President	TO	Marshal Stalin
SERIAL	Unnumbered	DATE	3 March 1944
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER			
FOR MAP ROOM		VIA	
SUBJECT Release to press of transfer of Italian ships to Soviets.			

ACTION:

Written by Admiral Leahy after President's press
conference, 3 Mar 44.

Answered by STALIN-POTUS, 6 March 1944.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:
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~~SECRET~~

FROM: THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER

TO : MARSHAL STALIN

DATE: 8 MARCH 1944

Although the Prime Minister instructed Ambassador Clark Kerr to tell you that the destroyers we are lending you were old, this was only for the sake of absolute frankness. In fact they are good, serviceable ships, quite efficient for escort duty. There are only 7 fleet destroyers in the whole Italian Navy, the rest being older destroyers and torpedo boats. Moreover these Italian destroyers, when we do get them, are absolutely unfitted for work in the North without very lengthy refit. Therefore we thought the 8 which the British Government have found would be an earlier and more convenient form of help to you.

The Prime Minister regrets that he cannot spare any new destroyers at the present time. He lost 2 last week, one in the Russian convoy, and for the landing at OVERLORD alone he has to deploy, for close inshore work against the batteries, no fewer than 42 destroyers, a large proportion of which may be sunk. Every single vessel that he has of this class is being used to the utmost pressure in the common cause. The movement of the Japanese fleet to Singapore creates a new situation for us both in the Indian Ocean. The fighting in the Anzio bridgehead and generally throughout the Mediterranean is at its height. The vast troop convoys are crossing the

~~SECRET~~

~~REGRADED~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Atlantic with the United States Army of Liberation. The Russian convoys are being run up to the last minute before OVERLORD with very heavy destroyer escorts. Finally there is OVERLORD itself. The President's position is similarly strained, but in this case mainly because of the great scale and activity of the operations in the Pacific.

Our joint intentions to deliver to you the Italian ships agreed upon at Moscow and Teheran remain unaltered, and we shall put the position formally to the Italian Government at the time when it is broadened and the new ministers take over their responsibilities. There is no question of our right to dispose of the Italian Navy, but only of exercising that right with the least harm to our common interests. Meanwhile, all our specified ships are being prepared for delivery to you on loan as already agreed.

ROOSEVELT. CHURCHILL.

This message to STALIN, signed jointly by the PRESIDENT and the PRIME MINISTER, was dispatched from London to Moscow on 8 March 1944, through British communication channels. (See attached background material.)

Background of joint PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER message to MARSHAL STALIN, dated 8 March 1944:

STALIN-POTUS/PM, 26 Feb 44, answers POTUS/PM-STALIN message of 7 Feb 44, and also answers POTUS-STALIN messages of 23 and 24 Feb 44. In this message of 26 Feb 44, STALIN requests that 4 new destroyers be included among those being sent to him by Britain and the U.S.

In PM-POTUS #595, 29 Feb 44, the PRIME MINISTER quotes message received from Ambassador CLARK KERR, giving STALIN's reactions to joint message of 7 Feb 44.

The PRESIDENT, in POTUS-PM #485, 3 Mar 44, advises the PRIME MINISTER that he has received STALIN's joint message of 26 Feb 44, and requests that the PRIME MINISTER suggest something which could be used in making reply to STALIN.

The PRIME MINISTER forwarded for the PRESIDENT's approval a proposed joint message to STALIN (PM-POTUS #601, 4 Mar 44), which the PRESIDENT approved in POTUS-PM #489, 7 Mar 44.

The message to STALIN, signed jointly by the PRESIDENT and the PRIME MINISTER, was dispatched from London to Moscow on 8 March 1944, through British communication channels.

Answered by STALIN's message to the PRESIDENT and the PRIME MINISTER, 17 March 1944.

~~SECRET~~

20 MARCH 1944

~~SECRET~~
PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV
TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

I have just been informed by Harriman that the Soviet Union is not planning to participate in the conference of the International Labor Organization to be held in Philadelphia starting April 20.

I have given considerable thought to the role that the International Labor Organization should play in constantly improving the labor and social standards throughout the world. I am anxious that you should know my thoughts on this matter.

It is my opinion that the International Labor Organization should be the instrument for the formulation of international policy on matters directly affecting the welfare of labor and for international collaboration in this field. I should like to see it become a body which will also serve as an important organ of the United Nations for discussing economic and social matters relating to labor and an important agency for the consideration of international economic policies which look directly toward improvement in standard of living. It would be unfortunate if both our Governments did not take advantage of the conference in Philadelphia to help develop our common objectives. We could thereby adapt the existing International

~~SECRET~~

- 1 -

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

~~SECRET~~

Labor Organization to the tasks facing the world without loss of valuable time.

I am instructing the United States Government delegates to the Philadelphia Conference to propose measures to broaden the activities and functions of the International Labor Organization and raise the question of its future relationship to other international organizations. In view of your interest in these matters and since there is a great range of social and economic problems that are of common interest to both our governments, I greatly hope that your government will participate.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1500, EWT, 20 March 1944.

Henry W. Putnam

HENRY W. PUTNAM,
Captain, A. C.

~~SECRET~~
- 2 -

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

FROM	The President	TO	Marshal Stalin
SERIAL	Unnumbered	DATE	20 March 1944
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	201946 NCR 2254		
FOR MAP ROOM	VIA		
SUBJECT	Participation in International Labor Organization conference.		

ACTION

Prepared by Dr. Lubin, with representatives of the State and Labor Departments; approved by Secretary Perkins. Sent to President, who made several changes in the message. Sent to the Secretary of State by the President on 18 Mar 44 for his approval; Sec of State approved with one alteration, 18 Mar 44. (Per Miss Tully and Mrs. Page.)

Brought to Map Room by Miss Tully; to Alusna Moscow as Opnav 201946 NCR 2254.

(For background material on this message, together with complete action on ILO conference, see "MR 210 ILO")

Answered by STALIN-PRES 25 Mar 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY	DIRECTION OF:

ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:
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31 MARCH 1944

PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV
TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~ FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL
STALIN.

Thank you much for your message of March twenty-fifth. I hope that at the coming meeting the International Labor Organization will make it clear that it is no longer an organ of the League of Nations, and that it will become affiliated with the United Nations. Therefore, I trust that the Soviet Union will have representatives at the following conference.

I will keep you informed of what happens at the Philadelphia meeting.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1820, EWT, 31 March 1944.

OGDEN S. COLLINS, JR.,
Lieutenant (jg) USNR.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

~~SECRET~~
312312 NCR 4264

March 31, 1944.

TO: PREMIER STALIN
FROM: THE PRESIDENT

Thank you much for your message of March twenty-fifth.

I hope that at the coming meeting the International Labor Organization will make it clear that it is no longer an organ of the League of Nations, and that it will be come affiliated with the United Nations. Therefore, I trust that the Soviet Union will have representatives at the following conference.

I will keep you informed of what happens at the Philadelphia meeting.

ROOSEVELT

*Brought to the Map Room
at 18150 by Miss Jolly,
who said President had
read and approved.
cmc.*

FROM The President	TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL Unnumbered	DATE 31 March 1944
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	
FOR MAP ROOM	VIA
SUBJECT International Labor Conference	

ACTION

Answers bTALIN's message of 25 Mar 44.

Brought to the Map Room by Miss Tully 31 Mar 44.

Copy to Sec Labor. 1 Apr; Sec State, 9 Apr.

Answered by bTALIN-PRES. 6 Apr 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
Sec Labor (See #210 ILO)	1 Apr 44	The President
Sec State (See #210 ILO)	9 Apr 44	The President

ACTION COMPLETED:
210 ILO

FILED:

[REDACTED]

FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER and THE PRESIDENT

TO : MARSHAL STALIN

DATE: 18 APRIL 1944

1. Pursuant to our talks at Teheran, the general crossing of the sea will take place around a date which Generals Deane and Burrows have recently been directed to give the Soviet General Staff. We shall be acting at our fullest strength.

2. We are launching an offensive on the Italian mainland at maximum strength about mid May.

3. Since Teheran your Armies have been gaining a magnificent series of victories for the common cause. Even in the months when you thought they would not be active, they have gained these great victories. We send you our very best wishes and trust that your Armies and ours, operating in unison in accordance with our Teheran agreement, will crush the Hitlerites.

ROOSEVELT. CHURCHILL.

The above joint message, signed by ROOSEVELT and CHURCHILL, was sent to Moscow from London via British channels, 18 Apr 44. See attached explanation.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

1. PM-PRES #644, 14 Apr 44. The PM questions whether it would not be well to send a notice to Stalin about the date of OVERLORD. Suggested message presented for consideration.

2. PRES-PM #522, 16 Apr 44. President does not concur in suggested message to Stalin. Believes message to Generals Burrows and Deane instructing them to inform Russian General Staff of intention to launch OVERLORD at agreed time. President suggests revised message for approval of PM.

3. PM-PRES #650, 18 Apr 44. PM approves message as drafted by President, and informs President he has sent message with one minor change--deletion of the work "soon."

4. PRES-PM #525, 18 Apr 44. "Your 650 received and your message to Uncle J. reported therein has my approval."

Message to Stalin, signed jointly by Churchill and Roosevelt, was dispatched from London to Moscow, via British channels 18 Apr 44.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1982

- STATUS REPORT -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5 May 1944

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV

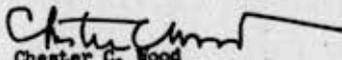
TO: ALUSNA MOSCOW

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~ FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL
STALIN.

Please accept my real appreciation and that of the
Government and People of the United States of your kind message
in connection with the tragic death of the Secretary of the
Navy, Mr. Frank Knox.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map room
at 1000, ENT, 5 May 1944.


Chester C. Wood
Captain, U.S.N.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

051449 NCR 499

[REDACTED]

5 May 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

At the direction of the President, I
am forwarding herewith a copy of a message which
has this date been sent to Marshal Stalin.

Respectfully,

CHESTER C. WOOD,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Asst. Naval Aide to the President.

1 Incl.
Msg. President to
Stalin, 5 May 44.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

DRAFT REPLY TO MARSHAL STALIN

MARSHAL JOSEPH STALIN

THE KREMLIN

MOSCOW.

real
Please accept my ~~sincere~~ appreciation and that of
the Government and people of the United States of your
kind message in connection with the tragic death of the
Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Frank Knox.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

*Sent through
Map Room*

FDR

FROM The President	TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL Unno	DATE 5 May 1944
DATE/TIME	
OR FILE NUMBER 051449 NCR 499	
FOR MAP ROOM --	VIA
SUBJECT Secretary Knox's death.	

ACTION

1. Answers STALIN-PRES 30 Apr 44, which was sent to the President at Hobcaw via pouch.
2. Reply received in Map Room as BLACK 99.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
ACTION COMPLETED:	FILED:	

[REDACTED]

FROM: THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER

TO : MARSHAL STALIN

UNNO, 13 MAY 1944.

From President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to
Marshal Stalin.

In order to give maximum strength to the attack across the sea against northern France, we have transferred part of our landing craft from the Mediterranean to England. This, together with the need for using our Mediterranean land forces in the present Italian battle makes it impracticable to attack the Mediterranean coast of France simultaneously with the OVERLORD assault. We are planning to make such an attack later, for which purpose additional landing craft are being sent to the Mediterranean from the United States. In order to keep the greatest number of German forces away from northern France and the eastern front, we are attacking the Germans in Italy at once on a maximum scale and, at the same time, are maintaining a threat against the Mediterranean coast of France.

Roosevelt. Churchill.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~

Message to Stalin as proposed by President and modified by the Prime Minister.

LEGEND:

~~for that matter~~ - text as proposed by President, deleted by PM.

for that matter - additions by PM.

From President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to Marshal Stalin.

In order to give maximum strength to the attack across the sea against northern France, we have transferred part of our landing craft from the Mediterranean to England. This, together with the need for using our Mediterranean land forces in the present Italian battle makes it impracticable to attack the Mediterranean coast of France ~~in conjunction~~ simultaneously with the OVERLORD assault. We are ~~expecting~~ planning to make such an attack later, for which purpose additional landing craft are being sent to the Mediterranean from the United States. In order to keep the greatest number of German forces away from northern France and the eastern front, we are attacking the Germans in Italy at once on a maximum scale and, at the same time, are maintaining a threat against the Mediterranean coast of France.

Roosevelt. Churchill.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Background of Joint message to Stalin, 13 May 1944:

PRES-PM #516, 8 Apr 44. President first suggested that Stalin be informed of cancellation of ANVIL as soon as such a decision was reached by CCS.

PRES-PM #536, 10 May 44. President again suggests that Stalin be advised that operation ANVIL will not be launched in connection with OVERLORD. Submits draft of message to Stalin for Prime Minister's approval.

PM-PRES #673, 11 May 44. Answers PRES #536. Advises that British Chiefs of Staff suggest certain changes to President's draft. Submits modified message.

PRES-PM #538, 12 May 44. Answers PM #673. President advises that message meets with his approval, and requests Prime Minister to send it as a joint message.

PM-PRES #675, 13 May 44. Prime Minister advises that joint message to Stalin has been sent.

Joint message to Stalin, signed by the President and the Prime Minister, dispatched 13 May 1944 from London to Moscow through British channels.

Answered by STALIN-PRES/PM, 15 May 44.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By V. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

- STATUS SHEET -

~~SECRET~~

WAL

[REDACTED]

are seeking the last days of 23 May 1944 — A greater

PRIORITY — political, religious and ideological; and a greater justice,

From: Opnav [REDACTED]

To : Alusna, Moscow [REDACTED] that we [REDACTED] can ever be strong

[REDACTED] AND PERSONAL. FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

Instead of a tripartite statement to be issued by the Soviet, U.K. and U.S. Governments, what would you think of a statement by me along these lines, to be issued after D-day?

QUOTE. It has been suggested that the Allied Governments join in a general statement to the German people and their sympathizers emphasizing the landings recently made on the Continent of Europe. I have not been in agreement with this because it might over-emphasize the importance of these landings. What I want to impress on the people of Germany and their sympathizers is the inevitability of their defeat. What I want to emphasize to them is their continuation of the war from now on is unintelligent on their part. They must know in their hearts that under their present leadership and under their present objectives it is inevitable that they will be totally defeated.

Every German life that is lost from now on is an unnecessary loss. From a cold-blooded point of view it is true that the Allies will suffer losses as well, but the Allies so greatly outnumber the Germans in population and in resources that on a relative basis the Germans will be far harder hit — down to every family — than the Allies. And in the long run mere stubbornness will never help Germany. The Allies have made it abundantly clear that they do not seek the total destruction of the German people. They do seek total destruction of the philosophy of those Germans who have announced that they could subjugate the world.

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

[REDACTED]

The Allies are seeking the long range goal of human freedom — a greater true liberty — political, religious and intellectual; and a greater justice, social and economic.

Our times are teaching us that no group of men can ever be strong enough to dominate the whole world.

The Government and people of the United States — with nearly twice the population of Germany — send word to the people of Germany that this is the time to abandon the teachings of evil.

By far the greater part of the world's population of nearly two billion people feel the same way. Only Germany and Japan stand out against all the rest of humanity.

Every German knows this in his heart. Germany and Japan have made a terrible and disastrous mistake. Germany and Japan must atone reasonably for the wanton destruction of lives and property which they have committed; and they must give up an imposed philosophy the falsity of which by now must be very clear to them.

The more quickly the end of the fighting and the slaughter the more quickly shall we come to a more decent civilization in the whole world.

The attacks which are now being made in the European theater by the Americans, by the British, by the Russian armies and their associates will, we hope, continue with success, but the German people can well realize that they are only a part of a series of attacks which will increase in number and volume until the inevitable victory is completed. UNQUOTE.

Churchill has agreed to follow up with a similar message along the same lines.

Released from the White House Map Room
at 0955, EWT, 23 May 1944.

ROOSEVELT

DECLASSIFIED

by Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

Chester C. Wood
CHESTER C. WOOD,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

[REDACTED] By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

President to Stalin

Instead of a tripartite statement
to be issued by the Soviet, U.K.
and U.S. governments, what
would you think of a statement by
me along these lines, to be issued
after 11 days?

quite

unfair

Churchill has agreed to follow
up with a similar message
along the same lines

FROM The President TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL or FILE NO.
DATE 23 May 1944

FOR MAP ROOM VIA
SUBJECT:
Statement by President on OVERLORD D-day.

ACTION:

1. (BACKGROUND: On 18 May 44, President forwarded suggested statement to be made by him after D-day (PRES-PM #541). On 22 May 44 (PM-PRES #679), Churchill replied that he would bring matter before Cabinet, but that personally he thought it would be best the President speak for all 3. In BLUE 8, 22 May 44 (HP to MR) Admiral Leahy directed that proposed statement be sent to Stalin for his approval with following sentence added: "Churchill has agreed to follow up with similar msg along the same lines.")
2. Attached message sent to Stalin, 23 May 44.
3. On 25 May 44 (PM-PRES #680) Churchill advised the President that Cabinet disapproved statement, and urged that it not be made on D-day. President replied that "in view of comments and attitude of Cabinet, I am in agreement that statement is not necessary and I shall not make any. (PRES-PM #543, 27 May 44.)"
4. In a message released 27/1733Z May, the President informed STALIN that in view of objection by British Govt, no statement would be made. (PRES-STALIN, 27 May 44).
5. Crossing PRES-STALIN 27 MAY in transmission was a message from Stalin to the President, dated 26 May but received in the Map Room at 27/2000, which stated, "I think that proposed appeal by you cannot bring positive effect."

O-V-E-R

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:

000.7 OVERLORD

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

27 May 1944

PRIORITY

From: Opanv

To : Alusna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] ET. FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

Referring to my message of May 23 proposing for consideration a message to be issued by me with the purpose of influencing the German people, I am informed now that the Prime Minister of Great Britain and his Cabinet do not approve of the suggestion.

In view of a positive and definite objection by the British Government, and because the proposed statement is not of essential importance, I propose to do nothing at the present time in the way of a statement of that nature.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1300, EST, 27 May 1944.

CHESTER C. WOOD,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

[REDACTED]

██████████
May 27, 1944

PRESIDENT TO MARSHAL STALIN:

Referring to my message of May 23 proposing for consideration a message to be issued by me with the purpose of influencing the German people, I am informed now that the Prime Minister of Great Britain and his Cabinet do not approve of the suggestion.

In view of a positive and definite objection by the British Government, and because the proposed statement is not of essential importance, I propose to do nothing at the present time in the way of a statement of that nature.

Roosevelt

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

FROM The President TO Marshal Stalin

SERIAL or FILE NO.

DATE 27 May 1944

FOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: Statement by President on OVERLORD D-day.

ACTION:

1. See STATUS SHEET attached to PRES-STALIN 23 May 44 for full report of action.
2. This dispatch written by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President 27 May 1944.

COPIES TO:

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

000.7 OVERLORD

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~
PRIORITY

30 May 1944

WAT

From: Opnav

To : Alusna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND ~~TOP SECRET~~ FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

The receipt is acknowledged of your message of May 26 regarding my proposal to make a statement designed to influence the German people.

My message to you dated May 27 which evidently crossed yours in transit is in agreement with your opinion that such a statement should not be made at the present time.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1330, EDT, 30 May 1944.

ROBERT H. MYERS,
Lieutenant, USNR.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By E. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

*Receipt in Moscow
acknowledged, 3 June 44.*

~~TOP SECRET~~ 301814 NCR 5657

May 29, 1944

PRESIDENT TO MARSHAL STALIN:

The receipt is acknowledged of your message of May 26 regarding my proposal to make a statement designed to influence the German people.

My message to you dated May 27 which evidently crossed yours in transit is in agreement with your opinion that such a statement should not be made at the present time.

Truman

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By F. J. Stewart Date APR 13 197

301812 NCR 6667

FROM The President TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL or FILE NO.
DATE 30 May 1944
TOR MAP ROOM VIA
SUBJECT: Statement by President on OVERLORD D-day

ACTION:

1. See STATUS SHEET attached to PRES-STALIN 23 MAY 44 for full report of action.
2. This dispatch written by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President without change 30 May 1944.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
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000.7 OVERLORD

7 JUNE 1944

FROM: OPNAV
TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

Thank you very much for your message of congratulation on the fall of Rome, and also for sending me the copy of your message to Mr. Churchill.

All of this makes me very happy.

The news from Northern France is that everything is progressing according to schedule.

I send you my warm regards.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1845, EWT, 7 June 44.

F. H. GRAHAM,
Captain, AGD.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

June 7, 1944.

TO: MARSHAL STALIN
FROM: THE PRESIDENT

Thank you very much for your message of congratulation on the fall of Rome, and also for sending me the copy of your message to Mr. Churchill.

All of this makes me very happy.

The news from Northern France is that everything is progressing according to schedule.

I send you my warm regards.

ROOSEVELT

FROM The President TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL or FILE NO. _____
DATE 7 June 44.

FOR MAP ROOM _____ VIA _____
SUBJECT: Acknowledgment of msg on Fall of Rome; also Russian summer offensive.

ACTION:

1. Answers STALIN-PRES, 5 JUNE 44, and STALIN-PRES, 7 JUNE 44.
2. Reply written by the President, to Stalin as PRES-STALIN, 7 JUNE 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
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This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

June 17, 1944

5 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

1506

[REDACTED] FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Please transmit the following message to Marshal Stalin from the President:

QUOTE. [REDACTED] AND PERSONAL.

As you know, the Polish Prime Minister Mr. Mikolajczyk has just completed a brief visit to Washington. For reasons which Ambassador Harriman has already explained to you I considered his visit at this time to be necessary and desirable.

You are aware, therefore, that his visit was not connected with any attempt on my part to inject myself into the merits of the differences which exist between the Polish Government-in-exile and the Soviet Government. Although we had a frank and beneficial exchange of views on a wide variety of subjects affecting Poland, I can assure you that no specific plan or proposal in any way affecting Polish-Soviet relations was drawn up. I believe, however, that you would be interested in my personal impression of Mr. Mikolajczyk and of his attitude toward the problems

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

confronting his country.

Premier Mikolajczyk impressed me as a very sincere and reasonable man whose sole desire is to do what is best for his country. He is fully cognizant that the whole future of Poland depends upon the establishment of genuinely good relations with the Soviet Union and, in my opinion, will make every effort to achieve that end.

His primary immediate concern is the vital necessity for the establishment of the fullest kind of collaboration between the Red Army and the forces of the Polish Underground in the common struggle against our enemy. He believes that coordination between your Armies and the organized Polish Underground is a military factor of the highest importance not only to your Armies in the East but also to the main task of finishing off by our combined efforts the Nazi beast in his lair.

My impression is that the Prime Minister is thinking only of Poland and the Polish people and will not allow any petty considerations to stand in the way of his efforts to reach a solution with you. In fact it is my belief that he would not hesitate to go to Moscow, if he felt that you would welcome such a step on his part, in order to discuss

with you personally and frankly the problems affecting your two countries particularly the urgency of immediate military collaboration. I know you will understand that in making this observation I am in no way attempting to press upon you my personal views in a matter which is of special concern to you and your country. I felt, however, that you were entitled to have a frank account of the impressions I received in talking with the Polish Prime Minister.

HULL

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GHY-927

This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. [REDACTED]

Moscow

Dated June 19, 1944

Rec'd 11:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2183, June 19, midnight.

[REDACTED] FOR THE SECRETARY:

I communicated the message from the President, con-
tained in your 1506, June 17, 5 p.m., in a personal letter
of June 18 to Molotov with request that Molotov transmit
the message to Marshal Stalin.

HARRIMAN

MRM
LMS

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-72

By RHE Date APR 13 1972

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RA-748

This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. [REDACTED]

Moscow

Dated June 22, 1944

Rec'd 10:03 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT

2225, June 22, 10 a.m.

PERSONAL FOR THE SECRETARY.

I expect to see Stalin either Saturday evening
or Monday; I feel it important for me to be informed
urgently of any answer received by the President to
his cable on Mikolajczyk, as Stalin might raise this
subject.

HARRIMAN

RR:WSB

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-78
By RHR Date APR 13 1972

[REDACTED]

FROM: THE PRESIDENT
TO : AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, MOSCOW
DATE: 23 JUNE 1944

Replying to your 2225, June 22, 10 a.m., I have not yet received an answer to my message regarding the visit to Washington of the Polish Prime Minister.

ROOSEVELT

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By V. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

[REDACTED]

COPY

FROM The President	TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL STATE #1506	DATE 17 June 1944
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	
FOR MAP ROOM	VIA
SUBJECT Informs Stalin of Pres-Mikolajczyk conversations in Washington.	

ACTION

1. Sent by State Department. (For complete file on this subject, including this and all following mentioned dispatches, see "MR 052 POLISH-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.")
2. At 1830, 23 Jun 44, Miss Tully brought to the Map Room a message from Harriman to Sec State (STATE #2225, 22 Jun 44) in which Harriman requested information re reply received by the President from Stalin on above message.
3. Map Room knew of no outgoing message; neither did Admiral Leahy; copy provided by State.
4. Message sent to Ambassador Harriman, prepared by Admiral Leahy, 23 Jun 44, informing him that no reply had as yet been received from Stalin. (Msg filed "MR 052 POLISH-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.")
5. Answered by Stalin's msg of 24 June 44.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:

ACTION COMPLETED: 052 POLISH-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.	FILED:
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22 June 1944

~~SECRET~~
PRIORITY

From: Opnav

To : Alusna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~. FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL STALIN.

Thank you for your message of June 21st. Your good action together with our efforts on the Western Front should quickly put the Nazis in a very difficult position.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1130, EWT, 22 June 1944.

RICHARD PARK, JR.
Colonel, General Staff.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By E. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

*Delivered to Molotov
23/0910, June.*

~~TOP SECRET~~

221542 NCR 97.

WOT

22 June 1944

PRESIDENT TO STALIN

Thank you for your message of June 21st. Your ^{good} action
together with our efforts on the Western Front should quickly
put the Nazis in a very difficult position.

Roosevelt

FROM The President	TO Marshal Stalin
SERIAL 221542 NCR 97	DATE 22 June 44
DATE/TIME OR FILE NUMBER	
TOR MAP ROOM	VIA
SUBJECT Beginning of Soviet offensive.	

ACTION

1. Acknowledges Stalin's message of 21 June 44.
2. Draft reply written by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President.
3. *No further reply from Stalin.*

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY	DIRECTION OF:

ACTION COMPLETED:

FILED:

300 Russia

27 June 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PRIORITY

From: Opnav

To : Aluzna, Moscow

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~. FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARSHAL
STALIN.

I have been made very happy by the news of your major victory at
Vitebsk and send herewith my congratulations to you personally and to
your gallant Army.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1620, EDT, 27 June 1944.

ROBERT H. MYERS,
Lieutenant, USNR

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
272024 NCR 747

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 27, 1944

PRESIDENT TO MARSHAL STALIN:

I have been made very happy by the news of your major victory at Vitebsk and send herewith my congratulations to you personally and to your gallant Army.

Roosevelt

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By V. J. Stewart Date APR 13 1972

FROM The President TO The Prime Minister
SERIAL or FILE NO.
DATE 27 June 44.

TOR MAP ROOM VIA
SUBJECT: Congratulatlons on liberation of Vitebsk.

ACTION:

1. Dispatch written by Admiral Leahy by direction of the President.
2. Answered by STALIN-PRES. 30 JUNE 1944.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
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