The Map Room Papers

of

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

[1941 - 1945]

Messages having to do with arrangements for the Yalta conference, including transport, communications, etc., and including messages between FDR and Churchill, Harriman, General Deane and others on procedural problems.

Continued from Roll-13
TOP SECRET DISPATCH

FROM: ALUSHA MOSCOW
RELEASED BY:
DATE: 27 DEC 1944
TOR CODE: 2132/27
DECODED BY: COOK
PARAPHRASED BY: COOK
ROUTED BY: COOK

ADDRESSSES
ASTERISK (*) AIRCRAFT ADDRESSEE

PRIORITY
ROUTINE
DEFERRED
BASEGRAM

PRECEDENCE

FOR ACTION
THE PRESIDENT

INFORMATION

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.

PAGE 1 OF 3
27173/2
NCR 6996

TOP SECRET FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM HARRIMAN

I TOLD MOLOTOV THIS AFTERNOON THAT I HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM YOU THAT IF MARSHAL STALIN COULD NOT COME TO THE MEDITERRANEAN YOU WERE PREPARED TO COME TO THE BLACK SEA. I EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THIS DECISION MADE FOR YOU BUT THAT IN CONSIDERATION OF MARSHAL STALIN'S HEALTH YOU WERE PREPARED TO FACE THEM. WE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HOLDING OF THE MEETING AT YALTA WITH YOUR SHIP AT SAVASTOPOL. MOLOTOV SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS WITH MARSHAL STALIN AND GET IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW. IT WAS AGREED THAT I AND APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY MISSION SHOULD GO TO THE PLACE OF THE MEETING AFTER PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I COULD BE INFORMED OF THE NAMES OF THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY AND THE NUMBER AND CHARACTER OF THE BALANCE OF THE PARTY SO THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR THEIR ACCOMODATION. AS HOTELS AND SANATORIA WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR FURNITURE THE RUSSIANS WILL HAVE TO MAKE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS.

No. 1 ADMIRAL.
No. 2 FILE.
No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.
No. 4 SPECIAL.

FILE COPY

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations.

Regraded Unclassified
IF YOU ARE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHIEFS OF STAFF WOULD YOU WISH ME TO DISCUSS WITH MARSHAL STALIN HIS BRINGING THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN STAFF. I FEEL THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS USEFUL IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

IN ADDITION I HAVE FOUND THAT MARSHAL STALIN HAS SOMETIMES GIVEN HIS AGREEMENT ON MILITARY PROPOSALS WHICH HE HAS NOT FULLY STUDIED AND SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED THEM AFTER CONSULTING HIS STAFF.

THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WOULD I BELIEVE THEREFORE CONtribute TO DEFINITE DECISIONS. MOLOTOV ASKED FOR THE APPROXIMATE DATE WHEN YOU EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN THE CRIMEA. I EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD AGREED TO GO WHEREVER YOU DECIDED AND THEREFORE I SUGGESTED THAT THE MARSHAL NOT COMMUNICATE WITH MR. CHURCHILL UNTIL YOU HAD HAD A CHANCE TO DO SO AFTER WHICH I PRESUMED MARSHAL STALIN WOULD WISH TO EXTEND HIM AN INVITATION. I DID THIS AS I DO NOT KNOW HOW FAR YOU HAVE KEPT THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. I WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THIS POINT. IN ORDER THAT WE CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AT SAVASTOPOL,
**TOP SECRET DISPATCH**

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**FOR ACTION**

**INFORMATION**

**SECTION**

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**IF OPERATIONAL**

**CHECK BELOW**

Page 3 of 3

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP

(Use G.C.T.)

On outgoing dispatches please leave about one inch clear space before beginning text.

It would be helpful to have advice as to the character and number of naval vessels for which provision should be made. Also the approximate number of airplanes which will bring your party in addition the character of the mail planes and from where they would fly.

Original nor distribution:

NAVADDE(F2 & 2)....ACTION

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

**TOP SECRET**

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instruction contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations.

OPNAV 19-78

Regraded Unclassified
FROM: Ambassador Harriman  
TO: The President  

Serial or FILE NO. 271730 NCR 6986, 27 Dec 44.  
DATE  

TOR MAP ROOM 2800352 VIA Navy Code Room  

SUBJECT: ARGOOAUT  

ACTION:  

1. Further to HARRIMAN-PRES #2618552; and further reply to PRES-HARRIMAN #143, 23 Dec 44.  
2. To the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-703, 2801052; copy also to Admiral Leahy.  
3. At 2814102, Admiral Leahy sent following to President as MR-OUT-704: "Referring to Harriman's 271730 (MR-OUT-703), I am discussing with War and Navy specific replies to the questions contained therein (number and names of staff, character of balance of party, number of airplanes, etc.)."  
4. MR-IN-247, from President to Adm Leahy, 281706, stated, "Your MR-OUT-704 approved."  
5. See further HARRIMAN-PRES 281535, advising President that Stalin has approved of Yalta as meeting place.  
6. Upon return of President to Washington on 29 Dec, Admiral Leahy prepared draft reply to Harriman's 261855, 271730, and 281535; approved by the President; reply sent to Harriman as PRES-HARRIMAN #153, 31 Dec 44.  

Regraded Unclassified
IN A TALK WITH MOLOTOV THIS AFTERNOON I AGAIN ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH MARSHAL STALIN TO DISCUSS THE PLACE OF THE MEETING. MOLOTOV SAID THAT THIS COULD BE ARRANGED BUT THAT HE KNEW THE POSITION OF MARSHAL STALIN AND COULD TELL ME AS THE DECISIONS UNFORTUNATELY WERE NOT DEPENDENT UPON THE MARSHAL ALONE. STALIN HAD AGAIN CONSULTED HIS DOCTORS WHO MAINTAINED THEIR POSITION THAT HE SHOULD NOT MAKE A LONG JOURNEY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE THEREFORE COULD NOT GO TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE WOULD HOWEVER GLADLY COME TO ANY PLACE ON THE SOVIET COAST OF THE BLACK SEA AND IF YOU COULD NOT COME THERE IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT MOLOTOV AS HIS FIRST DEPUTY COULD GO TO MEET YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER WHEREEVER YOU WISHED. I INQUIRED WHETHER FULL CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO YOUR SUGGESTION OF TRAVELING BY RAIL.
HE MAINTAINED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED ON CONSIDERATION OF THE LENGTH OF THE JOURNEY AS WELL AS THE MODE OF TRAVEL. FROM MY PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH STALIN AND THIS ONE WITH MOLOTOV I AM NOW CONVINCED THAT STALIN WILL NOT GO TO THE MEDITERRANEAN FOR THIS MEETING. I SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT I KNEW YOU WERE MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET MARSHAL STALIN THAT I WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AND SEE HIM AGAIN IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO WITH YOUR FINAL ANSWER.

I AM SEEING HIM TOMORROW ON ANOTHER MATTER AND WILL THEN DISCUSS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING IN THE CRIMEA IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR 23456. 143, 23 Dec 44.

NCR ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION:
NAVITA(2-1)....ACTION
FROM: Ambassador Harriman
TO: The President

SERIAL or FILE NO.: 2618552 NCR 5854, 26 Dec 44.

DATE: 2622152VIA Navy Dole Room

SUBJECT: ARGONAUT

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-HARRIMAN #143, 23 Dec 44.
2. To the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-699, 2622352.
3. President answered in MR-IN-246, 2623172, to Admiral Leahy: "Please note contents of Harriman's message today (MR-OUT-699) and take up with me on my return."
4. Referred to Admiral Leahy in accordance with above.
5. See further HARRIMAN-PRES 271730 and 281535.
6. Upon President's return on 29 Dec, reply to Harriman's 261855, 271730 and 281535 prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President; sent to Harriman as PRES-HARRIMAN #153, 31 Dec 44.

COPIES TO: INDEXED: PRES-HARRIMAN FILE

DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

Regraded Unclassified
(PERSONAL AND TOP SECRET FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM HARRIMAN)

I HAVE ASKED TO SEE STALIN AGAIN IN REGARD TO THE PLACE OF THE MEETING BUT AS YET HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT.
FROM: Ambassador Harriman
TO: The President
SERIAL or FILE NO.: 2522002 NCR 5041
DATE: 2600422
TOR MAP ROOM: 2600422
VIA: Navy Code Room
SUBJECT: Tripartite conference.

ACTION:

1. To the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-693, 25 Dec 44.
2. No reply.
3. See further Harriman-Pres 2618552, 26 Dec 44.

INDEXED: "PRES-HARRIMAN FILE"

210(2)

Regraded Unclassified
FOR ADMIRAL HEWITT'S EYES ONLY X

A SECRET U.S. MISSION WILL ATTEND CONFERENCES IN THE CRIMEAN AREA OF THE BLACK SEA IN EARLY FEBRUARY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD AT YALTA CRIMEA. MISSION WILL LEAVE UNITED STATES BY SHIP AND ARRIVE AT A MEDITERRANEAN PORT TO BE SELECTED LATER WITHIN EASY FLYING DISTANCE OF CRIMEA. YOUR RECOMMENDATION AS TO MEDITERRANEAN PORT FOR TRANSFER TO AIR TRAVEL IS REQUESTED. WE HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION MALTA OR ALEXANDRIA.

IT IS DESIRED THAT THE CATOCTIN PROCEED TO SEVASTOPOL IN ADVANCE OF THE MISSION TO SERVE AS A STATION SHIP AND COMMUNICATION CENTER OR AS LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE MISSION IN CASE QUARTERS AT YALTA PROVE UNSATISFACTORY. BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER YOUR FLAG AND TO SEND THE CATOCTIN TO SEVASTOPOL WHEN DIRECTED. SHE SHOULD HAVE
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AVAILBLE CABIN SPACE FOR A PARTY OF TWENTY PLUS EIGHT STEWARDS AND COOKS.

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SEEN BY THE FEWEST POSSIBLE PEOPLE AND REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY FOR PASSAGE THROUGH DARDANELLES IN THE GUISE OF MERCHANT SHIP SHOULD BE DELAYED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
MEMORANDUM FOR:

ADMIRAL BROWN:

In accordance with your request this morning, I have inquired through Colonel McCarthy, Secretary of the General Staff, as to whether Major Otis Bryan would be the officer selected in the event that operations now contemplated are carried out. I was told that Major Bryan is no longer in the military service and is now a vice president of TWA.

However, in the event that the services of this officer are requested or if the person traveling indicates a preference for him, both the Army Air Forces and Major Bryan himself would be anxious to comply.

Major Bryan holds a reserve commission and could be recalled to active duty without difficulty.

Colonel McCarthy has suggested the matter be taken up directly with General Arnold. I should be glad to do this if you think best.

[Signature]

GUERN KRIFFIN
Major, C.B.

1. Adm. McIntire said imperative we get Bryan.
2. Admiral Brown will see Bryan.
3. Bryan is in Washington
   at TWA, 1740 F St.
TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV
TO: ALUSNA, LONDON

COPY
NUMBER 676, PERSONAL AND TOP SECRET, FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR THE
PRIME MINISTER.

I am today sending to Harriman the following message in regard to
our projected three party meeting with U.J.

Please let me have your opinion as to the possibilities of this
plan from your point of view.

QUOTE. If Stalin cannot manage to meet us in the Mediterranean
I am prepared to go to the Crimea and have the meeting at Yalta which
appears to be the best place available in the Black Sea having the best
accommodations ashore and the most promising flying conditions.

We would arrive by plane from some Mediterranean port and would
send in advance a naval vessel to Sevastopol to provide necessary service
and living accommodations if it should be necessary for me to live on board
ship.

I would plan to leave America very soon after the inauguration on a
naval vessel. You will be informed later of a date of arrival that will be
satisfactory to Churchill and to me. My party will be numerically equal to
that which was present at Teheran, about 35 total.

I still hope the military situation will permit Marshal Stalin to meet
us half way. UNQUOTE.

ROOSEVELT

Regraded Unclassified
FROM The President TO The Prime Minister

SERIAL or FILE NO. 676, 23 December 1944

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. See STATUS SLIP attached to PRES-HARRIMAN #143, 23 Dec 44. This dispatch quotes PRES-HARRIMAN #143 to the Prime Minister for his information and views.

2. Dispatch written by Admiral Leahy; approved with minor changes by the President; dispatched 231547Z.

3. Answered by PM-PRES #861 and #862, 29 Dec 44.

Regraded Unclassified
TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV
TO: AMBASSADOR HARRIDAN

PERSONAL AND TOP SECRET, NUMBER 143, FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR AMBAS-

SADOR HARRIDAN.

Receipt is acknowledged of your No. 212040 and 220945 in regard to a
meeting place for our next tripartite meeting.

If Stalin cannot manage to meet us in the Mediterranean I am prepared
to go to the Crimea and have the meeting at Yalta which appears to be the
best place available in the Black Sea having the best accommodations ashore
and the most promising flying conditions.

We would arrive by plane from some Mediterranean port and would send
in advance a naval vessel to Sevastopol to provide necessary service and
living accommodations if it should be necessary for me to live on board ship.

I would plan to leave America very soon after the inauguration on a
naval vessel. You will be informed later of a date of arrival that will be
satisfactory to Churchill and to me. My party will be numerically equal to
that which was present at Teheran, about 35 total.

I still hope the military situation will permit Marshal Stalin to
meet us half way.

Referring to 220945, information is sufficient for the present.

Any further detailed information that you may obtain will be helpful.

ROOSEVELT

Released 2315562 Dec 1944.

J. A. TREE, JR.,
Commander, U.S.N.

TOP-SECRET

File Copy

Regraded Unclassified
TOP SECRET

December 24, 1944

Regraded Unclassified

PRÉSIDÈNT TO HARRIMAN:

Receipt is acknowledged of your No. 212040 in regard to a meeting place for our next trîpartite meeting.

If Stalin cannot manage to meet us in the Mediterranean, I am prepared to go to the Crimea and have the meeting at Yalta which appears to be the best place available in the Black Sea having the best accommodations ashore and the most promising flying conditions.

We shall arrive by plane from some Mediterranean port and send in advance a naval vessel to Sevastopol to provide necessary service and living accommodations if it should be necessary for me to live on board ship.

I am planning to leave America on January 13th on a naval vessel. You will be informed later of a date of arrival that will be satisfactory to Churchill and to me. My party will be numerically equal to that which was present at Teheran, about 35 total.

I still hope the military situation will permit Marshal Stalin to meet us half way.

Referring to #220945, information is sufficient for the present.

Any further detailed information that you may obtain will be helpful.

[Signature]
FROM: The President  
TO: Ambassador Harriman

SERIAL or FILE NO.: 143, 23 Dec 44.

DATE: 23 Dec 44.

SUBJECT: Tripartite conference.

ACTION:

1. Answers Harriman's #1's 2120140 and 220945 Dec 1944.
2. Above dispatches were referred to Admiral Leahy for reply. Reply drafted by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President; dispatched 2315562 Dec 44.
3. Quoted to PM for his information and views as PRES-PM #676, 23 Dec 44.
4. Answered by Harriman-Pres. #2618557, 26 Dec 44.

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I would appreciate knowing whether the information given in my 212040 is sufficient for your present purposes. We can of course give more detailed information on many aspects of each of the areas much of which including details regarding the ports is available in ONI. If Marshal Stalin refuses to go to the Mediterranean and you decide to come to some point in the Black Sea I intend to visit the area at once with appropriate members of our military mission in order to check on the spot all essential aspects. It would be particularly helpful to know at this time from the standpoint of radio communications whether you intend to bring a naval vessel. If there is to be no US naval vessel we here should begin to line up promptly adequate radio facilities.

Naval (1-2)......Action
FROM: AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN
TO: THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO.: 2209452 NCR 1736

DATE: December 1944

TOR MAP ROOM 2218152 VIA Navy Code Room

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Further to HARRIMAN-PRES #143, 22 December 1944.
2. To the President via Miss Tully.
3. Copy to Admiral Leahy at his request.
4. Reply prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved with minor changes by the President; sent to Harriman as PRES-HARRIMAN #143, 23 Dec 44.
5. See also PRES-PM #676, 23 Dec 44, in which the President quotes his #143 to Harriman for the Prime Minister's information and opinion.

2/0 (2)

Regraded Unclassified
REF YOUR 191647 WHITE HOUSE NR 137 DEC 19. STALIN SAID THAT ANY ONE OF THE THREE AREAS IN THE BLACK SEA NAMELY ODESSA, THE CRIMEA OR THE EASTERN BLACK SEA PORTS COULD BE MADE SUITABLE FOR HOLDING THE MEETING. HE PROPOSED ODESSA WHERE HE IS ALREADY PREPARING FACILITIES. THE PORT FACILITIES AT ODESSA WOULD BE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY FOR NAVAL VESSELS AND THE RUSSIANS WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY PROVIDE FULLY ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATIONS ASHORE. THERE IS A SUITABLE AIRPORT IN THE VICINITY. THE WEATHER HOWEVER AS YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED IS BLEAK AND COLD. IN THE SOUTHERN CRIMEA THE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE MUCH Milder THAN ODESSA. THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY IS 39 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT AND I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE. FROM REPORTS OF UNITED STATES NAVAL OFFICERS WHO RECENTLY

TOP SECRET

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PREPARED AND FILED:

ALUSNA MOSCOW

RELEASED BY:

DATE:

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PARAPHRASED BY:

ROUTED BY:

PAGE 2 OF 4

Visited Yalta there is no doubt that the living conditions ashore would be more than adequate in one or more of the number of first class sanatoria and hotels. A naval vessel would however have to anchor in the open roadstead off Yalta and in the event of bad weather would have to retire to Sevastopol. Sevastopol has an excellent harbor and can accommodate naval vessels. The town however has been almost completely destroyed and it would seem unlikely that facilities ashore could be made satisfactory for the conference. There is a suitable airport near Simferopol which was used by the Churchill party in October. This airport is within two to three hours drive by motor from either Yalta or Sevastopol. The time for road travel between Sevastopol and Yalta is also between two and three hours because of the winding character of the road. It would be helpful if I could be informed whether you intend to bring naval vessels and if so live.

Top Secret

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations.
ABOARD OR WHETHER YOU PLAN TO LIVE ASHORE. ALSO ROUGHLY THE SIZE AND CHARACTER OF YOUR PARTY. ARRANGEMENTS COULD UNDOUBT-EDLY BE MADE AS WAS DONE AT TEHERAN FOR YOUR PERSONAL STAFF TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN IF YOU SHOULD LIVE ASHORE. FROM ALL I HAVE LEARNED I AM CONVINCED THAT YOU WOULD BE WELL SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS ASHORE AT YALTA. IT DOES NOT HOWEVER APPEAR PRACTICABLE TO ATTEMPT TO COMBINE LIVING ON A SHIP AT SEVASTOPOL AND HOLDING MEETINGS AT YALTA BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE BY ROAD. IF YOU WISH TO LIVE ON YOUR WARSHIP THE PORTS OF POTI AND BATUM ARE ADEQUATE FOR ANCHORAGE AND MARSHAL STALIN TOLD ME THERE WERE SUITABLE FACILITIES ASHORE. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AIR FIELDS IN THE AREA ONE OF WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE SATISFACTORY FOR YOUR TRANSPORT PLANE. THE WINTER CLIMATE IN THIS AREA IS WARMER THAN IN THE CRIMEA BUT FEBRUARY IS A MONTH OF TROPICAL RAINS. THE FLYING DISTANCE TO THE EASTERN BLACK SEA PORTS IS ABOUT
250 MILES FARTHER THAN TO THE CRIMEA. THE SOVIET WEATHER BUREAU ESTIMATES THAT BASED ON CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA TRANSPORT PLANES SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN FEBRUARY BETWEEN CAIRO AND BATUM 21 DAYS, THE CRIMEA 18 DAYS AND ODESSA 15 DAYS. IT IS CONSIDERED THAT A MAIL PLANE COULD FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO DEPART MORE FREQUENTLY SINCE CAIRO HAS NIGHT LANDING FACILITIES. ODESSA IS APT TO BE CLOSED IN FOR LONGER PERIODS THAN THE OTHER TWO AREAS.
FROM: Ambassador Harriman
TO: The President

SERIAL or FILE NO. 2120402 CCN 1305
DATE

TOR MAP ROOM 220515Z VIA Navy Code Room

SUBJECT: Trispartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-HARRIMAN 137, 19 December 1944.
2. To the President on breakfast tray.
3. Dispatch given to Admiral Leahy for preparation of reply.
4. Reply prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved with minor changes by the President; sent to Harriman as PRES-HARRIMAN #113, 23 Dec 44.

COPIES TO: Admiral Leahy

DATE: 22 Dec 44

BY DIRECTION OF: The President

INDEXED: "PRES-HARRIMAN FILE"

210 (2)
From: Opnav
To: Alusna, Moscow

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL NUMBER 137 FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN.

Receipt is acknowledged of your very informative messages 151755, 151815, 151930, 152020 and 152035.

We have talked with Captain Frankel who reports weather conditions for flying at Odessa uncertain in winter and weather very cold. It will probably be necessary for me to arrive by airplane, and it will be necessary for me to have reliable mail communication with America by airplane.

In view of the possibility of the next three party meeting being in a Black Sea Port, and in view of the short time remaining to make essential preparations at this end, please, without prejudicing the prospect of Stalin's coming to the Mediterranean, ascertain the port facilities, weather conditions in February, living conditions ashore, and air facilities for my transport plane at possible Black Sea Ports. I am particularly interested in Sevastopol and Yalta. In order to avoid unnecessary delay to the conference information on these questions is necessary at the earliest practicable date.

Please suggest again to Stalin that if Germany's retirement from the Balkans is accomplished by early February he could take a train to the Adriatic coast and attend a meeting somewhere in that area, preferably Taormina.

Released from the White House Map Room at 191647Z, December 1944

ROOSEVELT

J. A. TYREE, JR.,
Commander, U.S.N.
TOP SECRET

December 19, 1944

PRESIDENT TO HARRIMAN:

Receipt is acknowledged of your very informative messages 151756, 1518145, 151930, 152020, and 152035.

We have talked with Captain Frankel who reports weather conditions for flying at Odessa uncertain in winter and weather very cold. It will probably be necessary for me to arrive by airplane, and it will be necessary for me to have reliable mail communication with America by airplane.

In view of the possibility of the next three party meeting being in a Black Sea Port, and in view of the short time remaining to make essential preparations at this end, please, without prejudicing the prospect of Stalin's coming to the Mediterranean, ascertain the port facilities, weather conditions in February, living conditions ashore, and air facilities for my transport plane at possible Black Sea Ports. I am particularly interested in Sevastopol and Yalta. In order to avoid unnecessary delay to the conference information on these questions is necessary at the earliest practicable date.
TOP SECRET

Please suggest again to Stalin that if Germany's retirement from the Balkans is accomplished by early February he could take a train to the Adriatic Coast and attend a meeting somewhere in that area, preferably Taormina.

Roosevelt
The President

TO

Ambassador Harriman, Moscow

137, 19 December 1944

VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Answers HARRIMAN-PRESIDENT #1’s 151755, 151815, 151930, 152020 and 152035. (Note this message only acknowledges 151815, 151930, 152020 and 152035. No. 151755 is the only message concerning tripartite meeting, which this message discusses further.)

2. All five of above mentioned Harriman messages were sent to the President at Warm Springs via pouch, 16 December 1944.

3. Draft reply prepared by Admiral Leahy upon President’s return; approved without change by the President; and dispatched 1916472.

4. Answered by HARRIMAN-PRES 212040, 22 Dec 44.

INDEXED: PRES-HARRIMAN FILE

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

210 (2)
Supplementing my NR 142330 sent last night reporting on my talk with Stalin about the place of the proposed meeting although Stalin definitely left the door open for consideration of the Mediterranean I do not feel too optimistic that he will finally agree to go there. It was my definite impression however that he wanted to accede to your request and he spoke rather regretfully when he said he would have to consult his doctors again.

He brought the subject of the meeting up himself and indicated that he was anxious to have it take place promptly after the inauguration.

Top Secret

File Copy
FROM Ambassador Harriman TO The President

Serial or File No. 1517552 NCR 5168

Date 1607152 VIA Navy Code Room

Subject: Tripartite meeting.

Action:

1. Further to HARRIMAN-PRES 142330, 15 Dec 44.
2. Sent to the President at Warm Springs via pouch, 16 December 44.
3. Draft reply prepared by Admiral Leahy upon President's return; approved without change by the President; sent to Harriman as PRES-HARRIMAN #137, 19 Dec 44.

Copies To:

Indexed: "PRES-HARRIMAN File"

Date: ________

By Direction Of: ________
I talked with Marshal Stalin this evening about the proposed meeting and explained that you wished the meeting to take place somewhere in the Mediterranean. He said that and had answered you that he could not go to the Mediterranean. He suggested Odessa where he was already having prepared suitable facilities ashore. He said if you preferred to go to the Crimea or the eastern part of the Black Sea where it was warmer anywhere down to Batum he would be agreeable. I explained the many reasons why you were insisting on the Mediterranean and the difficulties of the Black Sea emphasizing particularly that you wished to be on a naval vessel and not to fly. He said eventually that he would consult his doctors as to whether they would allow him to fly to the Mediterranean. He said that he would see me again in about a week to give me some info on certain military matters and I hope to have another chance to discuss the matter.
**OP SECRET DISPATCH**

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Unless otherwise indicated this dispatch will be transmitted with deferred precedence and as administrative.

(SHEET TWO OF TWO SHEETS) ALUSHA MOSCOW 14233/2

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

On outgoing dispatches please leave about one inch clear space before beginning text.

**STalin appeared well.**

Original NCR distribution:

NAVAKIIDE(41, 32)......ACTION(FOR DELIVERY TO THE PRESIDENT)

FILE.

**TOP SECRET**

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations.

Regraded Unclassified
FROM Ambassador Harriman TO The President

SERIAL or FILE NO. 142330Z NCR 3975

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM 150200 VIA Navy Code Room

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. (See PRES-HARRIMAN #129, 27 Nov 44, and HARRIMAN-PRES 0612272, 6 Dec 44.)

2. To the President at War Springs as MK-OUT-653, 15 Dec 44.

3. No reply made directly to this message; see further HARRIMAN-PRES 151755, 16 Dec 44, and its reply, PRES-HARRIMAN #137, 19 Dec 44.

COPIES TO:

INDEXED: "PRES-HARRIMAN FILE"

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

210(2)
ON MY ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW I FOUND YOUR MESSAGE NR 129 OF 27/17/49 NOV REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A BLACK SEA PORT FOR THE PROPOSED MEETING. I HAVE NOT YET SEEN MARSHAL STALIN AND THE FOLLOWING IS THEREFORE BASED ONLY ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO OUR NAVAL OFFICERS HERE. TWO OF OUR NAVAL OFFICERS VISITED YALTA AND SEVASTOPOL DURING LAST SUMMER. THEY REPORT THAT YALTA HAS A NUMBER OF LARGE AND WELL BUILT SANTA TERRITORIES AND HOTELS UNDAMAGED BY GERMAN OCCUPATION. BY RUSSIAN STANDARDS THE TOWN IS EXTREMELY NEAT AND CLEAN. THE HARBOR IS SMALL AND IT IS DOUBTED THAT IT IS ADEQUATE FOR PROTECTED ANCHORAGE FOR A LARGE NAVAL VESSEL. THE WINTER CLIMATE IS REASONABLY FAVORABLE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 39 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. THE TOWN HAS GOOD SOUTHERN EXPOSURE AND IT IS PROTECTED FROM THE NORTH WINDS BY HIGH
CLIFFS. SEVASTOPOL HAS EXCELLENT ANCHORAGE WHICH RUSSIANS
STATE THEY HAVE CLEARED OF MINES. WEATHER IS PROBABLY SOME-
WHAT COLDER THAN YALTA BECAUSE OF GREATER EXPOSURE TO THE
NORTH. YALTA AND SEVASTOPOL ARE CONNECTED BY A WINDING HIGH-
WAY WITH GOOD SURFACE ABOUT THREE HOURS BY MOTOR. BECAUSE
OF ENEMY ACTION DOUBT THAT THERE ARE ANY ADEQUATE FACILITIES
ASHORE. ODESSA HAS BEEN VISITED RECENTLY BY CAPTAIN FRANKEL
USN NOW ENROUTE WASHINGTON. ANCHORAGE AND HARBOR EXCELLENT
BUT WEATHER DURING WINTER MUCH COLDER THAN THE CRIMEA WITH
CONSIDERABLE FOG. UNDERSTAND TOWN HAS NOT BEEN BADLY DAMAGED
DURING ENEMY OCCUPATION ALTHOUGH ELECTRICITY AND SEWERAGE
SYSTEMS ARE NOT YET IN FULL OPERATION. ONE OF THE HOTELS
COULD BE MADE ADEQUATE. WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION REGARDING
CONSTANTZA. NOVOROSSISK HARBOR UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDES SATI-
FACTORY ANCHORAGE. UNDERSTAND THE TOWN HAS SUFFERED CONSIDER-
ABLE WAR DAMAGE AND NO SUITABLE BUILDINGS AVAILABLE. PORTS
OF MOTI AND BATUM PROVIDE ADEQUATE ANCHORAGE AND PROBABLY SATISFACTORY FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE ASHORE. CLIMATE IS SUBTROPICAL AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE MORE AGREEABLE THAN ANY OTHER AREA IN RUSSIAN BLACK TERRITORY. ALTHOUGH NO AMERICAN HAS VISITED THESE PLACES SINCE THE WAR WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY EPIDEMICS. CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN ALL OF RUSSIA NOT TO EAT LOCAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WITHOUT CAREFUL PREPARATION. OTHERWISE HEALTH CONDITIONS SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY CERTAINLY FAR BETTER THAN TEHERAN. UNDERSTAND THERE ARE SATISFACTORY AIRFIELDS NEAR ALL THE PLACES MENTIONED ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING THE AIRFIELDS ADJACENT TO THE CAUCASIAN CITIES. ODESSA AND CONSTANTZA ARE NOW ABOUT 500 MILES FROM ENEMY AREAS AND THEREFORE WITHIN BOMBING RANGE. SEVASTOPOL IS 750 MILES FROM NEAREST ENEMY AIRFIELDS AND WOULD THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT OF ATTACK. THE RUSSIANS ARE NOW OPERATING SHIPS FREELY IN THE
BLACK SEA AS FAR WEST AS CONSTANTZA AND SOVIET NAVY STATES THAT CHANNELS HAVE BEEN SWEEP OF MINES. WE ARE INVESTIGATING WINTER FLYING CONDITIONS. WHEN I SEE STALIN I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INDUCE HIM TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A POINT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BUT AT THE SAME TIME WILL INQUIRE THE LOCATION HE WOULD SUGGEST IN THE BLACK SEA. I AM ASSUMING THAT IF YOU DECIDE TO GO THE BLACK SEA YOU WOULD WISH TO LIVE ABOARD YOUR NAVAL VESSEL.
FROM  Ambassador Harriman  TO  The President

SERIAL or FILE NO.  061227Z  NCR  5036  Jun 44.

DATE:  06/17/44  VIA  Navy Code Room

SUBJECT:  Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-HARRIMAN #129, 27 Nov 44.
2. To the President at Warm Springs as WH-OUT-608, 6 Dec 44.
4. See further HARRIMAN-PRES 142330Z, 15 Dec 44, and HARRIMAN-PRES 151755Z, 16 Dec 44.
5. This message was not answered directly, but was indirectly answered by PRES-HARRIMAN #137, 19 Dec 44.

REGRADED Unclassified
27 November 1944

From: Opnav
To: Alusna, Moscow

NUMBER 129. TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN.

I have a message from Marshal Stalin which indicates that he will be unable, because of his doctors' advice, to attend a forthcoming three-party staff meeting in any other place than some Russian port.

You are aware of the difficulties facing me in absenting myself to such a distance in communications from the Congress and of the advantages to me of meeting in some Mediterranean port.

In view, however, of the apparently essential importance of such a meeting late in January or early February somewhere, please obtain for me pertinent information as to possible locations for the meeting.

For advance planning it is necessary that I should have for consideration:
1. The names of such locations.
2. The health conditions, living conditions, and weather conditions that we would meet in each.
3. The danger from enemy action during the approach and after arrival.
4. The availability of a sheltered anchorage for a ship, with depth of water.
5. The availability of an airfield for a transport plane if my travel should be by air.
6. The suitability of building in which to hold the staff meetings.
Because of their accessibility from the Mediterranean by airplane, I should like to have you obtain all the pertinent information that is available in regard to the Black Sea Ports, Constanta, Odessa, Yalta, and any other port that is considered satisfactory by the Marshal.

If possible send your Naval Attache to report upon these ports.

Marshal Stalin believes, and I agree, that an early decision should be made, and I should, therefore, like to have a report from you at the earliest practicable date.

It will be a splendid accomplishment if you can induce Stalin to meet us somewhere in the Mediterranean.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room at 271709Z, November 1944.

RICHARD PARK, JR.,
Colonel, General Staff.
PRESIDENT TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN: #129

I have a message from Marshal Stalin which indicates that he will be unable, because of his doctors' advice, to attend a forthcoming three-party staff meeting in any other place than some Russian Port.

You are aware of the difficulties facing me in absenting myself to such a distance in communications from the Congress and of the advantages to me of meeting in some Mediterranean Port.

In view, however, of the apparently essential importance of such a meeting late in January or early February, somewhere, please obtain for me pertinent information as to possible locations for the meeting.

For advance planning it is necessary that I should have for consideration:

1. The names of such locations.
2. The health conditions, living conditions, and weather conditions that we would meet in each.
3. The danger from enemy action during the approach and after arrival.
4. The availability of a sheltered anchorage for a ship, with depth of water.
5. The availability of an airfield for a transport plane if my travel should be by air.

- 1 -
6. The suitability of building in which to hold the staff meetings.

Because of their accessibility from the Mediterranean by airplane, I should like to have you obtain all the pertinent information that is available in regard to the Black Sea Ports, Constanta, Odessa, Yalta, and any other port that is considered satisfactory by the Marshal.

If possible send your Naval Attache to report upon these ports.

Marshal Stalin believes, and I agree, that an early decision should be made, and I should, therefore, like to have a report from you at the earliest practicable date.

It will be a splendid accomplishment if you can induce Stalin to meet us somewhere in the Mediterranean.

[Signature]

- 2 -
Ambassador Harriman has not yet arrived in Moscow. Telegram No 129, 271709Z, will be held here pending his arrival unless instructions are received to the contrary. His arrival is expected in four or five days.

Reed 281009Z

NCR ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION:
NAVIDES(1-2).....ACTION
FROM  The President  TO  Ambassador Harriman

SERIAL or FILE NO.  #129  DATE  27 November 1944

TO  MAP ROOM  VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. See STALIN-PRES 23 Nov 44, to which this message refers. Stalin's message was sent to the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-540, 25/12272.

2. No answer was sent to Stalin. This message was prepared by Adm Leahy; approved by the President without change; sent to Harriman at 271709Z.

3. Ambassador Harriman was in England, en route from the United States to Moscow, when this message was transmitted. Charge d'Affaires, Moscow, msg No. 281025Z Nov, informed the President that Harriman had not arrived in Moscow, that he was expected to arrive in four or five days, and that the message would be held pending Harriman's arrival. No reply made to the Charge by the President.

4. Answered by HARRIMAN-PRES #061227 Dec 44.

COPIES TO:  INDEXED: "PRES-HARRIMAN FILE"  DATE:  BY DIRECTION OF:  

210 (2)
FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER
TO: THE PRESIDENT
NO: 834, 27 NOVEMBER 1944

1. Your 657. Thank you very much. Please tell us if there is anything you think we ought to do.

2. Your 658. I agree with your conclusion that U. J. will not travel beyond the Black Sea but I am sure the ports there will be unfit for us until the winter has passed.

3. * * * * *

PRIME
FROM The Prime Minister TO The President

SERIAL or FILE NO. 834, 27 November 1944.

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM 2714.30Z VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: ... Tri-partite meeting

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-FM #658, 26 Nov 44.
2. To the President via usher.
3. No reply necessary, per Adm Leahy.

COPIES TO:

ORIGINAL: PRES-FM FILE

DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

210(2)
FROM: THE PRESIDENT
TO: THE PRIME MINISTER
NO: 658, 26 NOVEMBER 1944

Your 825. Uncle Joe has now replied to my message in regard to the tripartite meeting forwarded to you in my 650.

He expresses regret that my Naval advisors doubt the expediency of meeting on the shore of the Black Sea. He does not object to a meeting at the end of January or the beginning of February, but he has in mind that we shall choose as a meeting place one of the Soviet port cities. He must consider the opinion of his doctors that a long trip would be a danger to him.

He hopes that we will now or soon finally agree upon a meeting place that will be acceptable to all of us.

I have a feeling that we will not succeed in getting U.J. to travel beyond the Black Sea unless the Germans should have surrendered by that time.

* * * * *

ROOSEVELT

COPY
FROM The President TO The Prime Minister

SERIAL or FILE NO. 658, 26 November 1944

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-PM #325, 19 Nov 44.

2. (See STALIN-PRES 23 Nov 44, which this message quotes in part to the Prime Minister.)

3. Prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President; dispatched 2616372.

4. Answered by PM-PRES #334, 27 November 1944.

COPIES TO: ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

210 (2)
FROM: MARSHAL STALIN
TO : THE PRESIDENT
DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 1944

It is greatly regretted that your naval organs doubt the expediency of your initial supposition that the Soviet coast of the Black Sea should be chosen as the meeting place for the three of us. The suggested by you date of the meeting at the end of January or beginning of February has no objections on my part, but at the same time I have in mind that we shall succeed in choosing as a meeting place one of the Soviet port cities. I still have to take into consideration the advice of the doctors about the danger of long trips.

I still hope, however, that we shall succeed, if not right now, then somewhat later to agree finally upon an acceptable for all of us meeting place.

I am sending you my very best wishes.

COPY

Regraded Unclassified
FROM Marshal Stalin TO The President,

DATE 23 November 1944

TOR MAP ROOM 25 Nov 44 VIA Russian Embassy

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-STALIN #124, 18 November 1944.
2. Sent to the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-549, 25/12272.
3. No action taken at Hyde Park by the President. Upon return of the President on 26 November 1944, taken up with Admiral Leahy.
4. Message sent to the PM for his information as PM-PRESS 658, 26 November 1944.
5. This message was not answered directly to Marshal Stalin. Message to Harriman prepared by Admiral Leahy, approved by the President without change, sent to Harriman as PRES-HARRIMAN #129, 27 Nov 44.

Regraded Unclassified
FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO: THE PRESIDENT  
NO: 825, 19 NOVEMBER 1944  

1. Naturally I am very sorry to receive your numbers 649 and 650.

2. Your message to U. J. will, of course, make it certain that he will not come anywhere before the end of January. Also you yourself give independently the important reasons which make it difficult for you to come earlier.

3. These reasons, I fear, destroy the hope which we had cherished that you would now pay your long-promised visit to Great Britain, and that we two could meet here in December and ask U. J. to send Molotov, who would be an adequate deputy. It is a great disappointment to me that this prospect should be indefinitely postponed.

4. There is, in my opinion, much doubt whether U. J. would be willing or able to come to an Adriatic port by January 30th, or that he would be willing to come on a non-Russian vessel through this extremely heavily-mined sea. However, if he accepts we shall, of course, be there. I note you do not wish the French to be present. I had thought they might come in towards the end in view of their vital interests in the arrangements made for policing Germany, as well as in all questions affecting the Rhine frontiers.

5. Even if a meeting can be arranged by the end of January, the two and a half intervening months will be a serious hiatus. There are many important matters awaiting settlement, for example. The treatment of Germany and the future world organization, relations with France, the position in the Balkans, as well as the Polish question, which ought not to be left to moulder.

6. * * * * *
FROM The Prime Minister TO The President

SERIAL or FILE NO. 825, 19 Nov 44.

DATE 825, 19 Nov 44.

TOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting . . . .

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-PM #649 and #650, 18 Nov 44.
2. To President via usher. Reply to Churchill held up pending receipt of answer to PRES-STALIN #124, 18 Nov 44.
3. Answered by PRES-PM #658, 26 Nov 44, which was prepared by Adm. Leahy.

210 (2)
FROM: THE PRESIDENT
TO: THE PRIME MINISTER
NO: 650, 18 NOVEMBER 1944

I have today sent the following message to Stalin:

"All three of us are of one mind—that we should meet . . . .

(Quotes verbatim PRES-STALIN #124,)

18 November 1944.

. . . regards to you. Roosevelt."

ROOSEVELT
FROM The President TO The Prime Minister

Serial or File No. 650, 18 Nov 44.

Date

TOR Map Room Via

Subject: Tripartite meeting.

Action:

1. Further reply to PM #822, 16 Nov 44. Also see PRES-PM #649.
2. Quotes to Churchill a message sent by the President to Marshal Stalin, 18 Nov 44. (PRES-STALIN #124, 18 Nov 44.)
3. Answered by PM-PRES, #825, 19 Nov 44.

Copies To: Original: PRES-PM File

Date: By Direction Of:

210(2)
FROM: THE PRESIDENT
TO: THE PRIME MINISTER
NO: 649, 18 NOVEMBER 1944

Your 822. I am sending you in a message to follow a copy of a
message I have just sent to Uncle Joe on the subject of our next meeting.
* * * * *
FROM | The President | TO | The Prime Minister
---|---|---|---
SERIAL or FILE NO. | 649, 18 November 1944 | DATE | 
TOR MAP ROOM | VIA | 
SUBJECT: | Tripartite meeting . . . 

ACTION:

1. Answers PM #822, 16 Nov 44.
2. This dispatch written by Admiral Brown; approved by the President 18 Nov 44, and dispatched.
3. See also PRES-PM #650, which is continuation of this message.
4. Answered by PA-PRES, #825, 19 Nov 44.

COPIES TO:

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

DATE: 

BY DIRECTION OF: 

210(2)

Regraded Unclassified
FROM: THE PRESIDENT
TO: MARSHAL STALIN
NO: 124, 18 NOVEMBER 1944

All three of us are of one mind—that we should meet very soon, but problems chiefly geographical do not make this easy at this moment. I can, under difficulties, arrange to go somewhere now in order to get back here by Christmas but, quite frankly, it will be far more convenient if I could postpone it until after the Inauguration which is on January twentieth.

My Navy people recommend strongly against the Black Sea. They do not want to risk a capital ship through the Aegean or the Dardanelles, as it would involve a very large escort much needed elsewhere. Churchill has suggested Jerusalem or Alexandria, and there is a possibility of Athens, though this is not yet sure.

Furthermore, I have at this time a great hesitation in leaving here while my old Congress is in its final days, with the probability of its not adjourning finally until December fifteenth. Also, I have to be here, under the Constitution, to send the Annual Message to the new Congress which meets here in early January.

What I am suggesting is that we should all meet about the twenty-eighth or thirtieth of January, and I should hope that by that time you will have rail travel to some port on the Adriatic and that we should meet you there or that you could come across in a few hours on one of our ships to Bari and then motor to Rome, or that you should take the same ship a little further and that we should all meet in a place like Taormina, in eastern Sicily, which should provide a fairly good climate at that time.

Almost any place in the Mediterranean is accessible to me so that I can be within easy air distance of Washington in order to carry out action on Legislation—a subject with which you are familiar. I must be able to get Bills or Resolutions sent from here and returned within ten days.

I hope that your January military operations will not prevent you from coming at that time, and I do not think that we should delay the meeting longer than the end of January or early February.

Of course, if in the meantime the Nazi Army or people should disintegrate quickly, we would have to meet earlier, though I should much prefer the meeting at the end of January.

A further suggestion as to a place would be one on the Riviera but this would be dependent on the withdrawal of German troops from northwestern Italy. I wish you would let me know your thoughts on this.
I hope to talk over many things with you. We understand each other's problems and, as you know, I like to keep these discussions informal, and I have no reason for formal agenda.

My Ambassador in China, General Hurley, is doing his best to iron out the problem between the Generalissimo and the forces in North China. He is making some progress but nothing has been signed yet.

My warmest regards to you.

ROOSEVELT
FROM: The President  TO: Marshal Stalin

SERIAL or FILE NO.  DATE: 124, 18 November 1944

TOR MAP ROOM: VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Replies to STALIN-PRES 29 October 1944.
2. Written by the President. President's draft sent by memo, signed F.D.R., 17 Nov 44, to Admiral Leahy with following notation: "Will you let me know what you think?"
3. Approved by Adm Leahy; dispatched 18 November 1944.
4. (See PRES-PW #650, 18 Nov 44, which quotes this message to the Prime Minister.)
5. Answered by STALIN-PRES 23 November 1944.

COPIES TO: ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

210(2)
FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER
TO : THE PRESIDENT
NO : 822, 16 NOVEMBER 1944

*** ***

Your Number 648.

I am very sorry that you are inclined to make no further effort
to procure a triple meeting in December, and I will send you a separate
telegram making some further suggestions about this.

*** ***
FROM The Prime Minister TO The President

SERIAL or FILE NO. 822, 16 Nov 44.

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM 1603032 VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting . . .

ACTION:

1. To the President via usher. Answers PM #648.
2. To Admiral Leahy for action.
3. Admiral Leahy prepared draft reply. Given to Admiral Brown by the President to be reworded so that it would read more personally.
4. Admiral Brown's draft approved by the President 18 Nov 44; sent to the PM as PRES #649, 18 Nov 44.

COPIES TO:

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

DATE: ___________________________

BY DIRECTION OF: ___________________________

210 (2)
FROM: THE PRESIDENT
TO: THE PRIME MINISTER
NO: 648, 14 NOVEMBER 1944

The more I think it over the more I get convinced that a meeting of the three of us just now may be a little less valuable than it would be after I am inaugurated on the twentieth of January. The location of a meeting now is very difficult. All my people advise strongly against the Black Sea. I do not think there is a chance that UJ would agree to Jerusalem, Egypt or Malta.

But there is a real chance that by the end of January or early February he could get rail transportation to head of the Adriatic. He might be willing to come to Rome or the Riviera. I would of course stop in England going or returning. I do not think he wants to fly or take a very difficult and long rail journey to Haifa.

Incidentally it would be far easier for me as I am undergoing the throes of the old session and preparing for the new session on January third.

Ever so many thanks for your wire. I finally got angry toward the end of the campaign and replied to the worst type of opposition I have ever met. However it worked well and people are now sitting back trying to catch their breath.

What do you think of postponement? It appeals to me greatly. My best to you on your Parisian trip. Don't turn up in French clothes.

ROOSEVELT
FROM  The President  TO  The Prime Minister
SERIAL or FILE NO.  648, 14 November 1944
DATE  
TOR MAP ROOM  VIA  
SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting; election; French

ACTION:

1. Answers PM #s 314 and 315, 5 Nov 44, which were sent to the President at Hyde Park as WH-OUT-510 and 512 respectively.
2. Dispatch written by the President after his return from Hyde Park and dispatched on 14 Nov 44.
3. Answered by Para 2, PM-PRES #822, 16 Nov 44.
4. See PRES-PM #649 and #650 for further correspondence.

Regraded Unclassified
FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER
TO: THE PRESIDENT
NO: 815, 5 NOVEMBER 1944

The report of the First Sea Lord referred to in my number 814 follows:

I have examined the various alternatives for the forthcoming meeting. The considerations are as follows.

During November and December weather conditions are such that it is most desirable for ships to be berthed in a protected anchorage.

Weather conditions in the Aegean and Black Sea are usually bad in the winter, but good in the southern part of the eastern Mediterranean.

The northern part of the Black Sea and the approaches to the Crimea have been heavily mined. Russian minesweeping is an unknown quantity.

There may well be great difficulty in obtaining Turkish consent to the passage of warships through the Dardanelles, which is contrary to the Montreux Convention. It is possible that the only solution would be for Turkey to become a belligerent. This question is, however, one for the Foreign Office.

A British cruiser could be sent to pick up passengers at any port in the Aegean or eastern Mediterranean, and, with some risk, at any Black Sea port.

My conclusions in general terms are as follows:

(A) Black Sea and Crimean ports should be ruled out on account of the minefields in the Black Sea and at the entrance to the Dardanelles. I would certainly not advise the safety of valuable units being dependent on Russian minesweeping. In addition, there is the almost certain lack of amenities, and bad weather conditions. The Montreux Convention is also relevant.

(B) In the Bosphorus the weather conditions are slightly better, and there are reasonably good anchorages. There is, however, the mining danger and the Montreux difficulty as in subpara (A) above.

(C) Aegean—battleships cannot enter the Piraeus. Phalerum Bay is a possible alternative but an open anchorage, and here again there is some danger from mines. Salonika, though good anchorage, has no amenities and malaria is rife. Mineable waters which have not yet been swept extend a long way from the port.
(D) Cyprus Famagusta and Limassol are possible. But both are open anchorages. Malaria is prevalent and they are not recommended.

(E) Levant—Beirut and Haifa are open anchorages, but the weather should be moderate. There is reasonably good accommodation ashore. Haifa has rail and first class road communication with Jerusalem.

(F) Egypt—Alexandria is a first class port with a good climate and excellent accommodation ashore. There is some doubt, however, whether the largest battleships can traverse the approaches to the harbour. This is being confirmed. An alternative is Port Said, where battleships can berth within the harbour.

(G) Malta—An excellent harbour and some accommodation ashore.

Conclusions:

I find great difficulty in making any recommendation to suit all the conditions. The Aegean and Black Sea in my opinion are no places to hold conferences in the winter, let alone the mining danger. Of the ports considered above, I would recommend Alexandria first, with Port Said as its alternative if battleships cannot enter, and secondly Haifa, but this presupposes that Marshal Stalin is prepared to make the long journey by train across Turkey or by sea from a Black Sea port. Failing these, Malta of course provides the necessary battleship anchorage and some accommodation.

Detailed notes on the various ports follow:

Black Sea ports—two considerations apply to all Black Sea ports:

(1) The Montreux Convention,

(2) Widespread mining is known to have been carried out, and the extent of sweeping by the Russians is unknown. The whole of the north-west section of the Black Sea (including Sevastopol, Nikolaev, Odessa and Constanza is believed to be heavily mined. Nikolaev insufficient depth of water. Odessa open anchorage only. Constanza open anchorage only. Novorossisk open anchorage only. Crimea Sevastopol open anchorage only. Climate very cold. It is presumed that amenities in these ports have been largely wrecked.

Bosphorus—two considerations apply:

(1) The Montreux Convention,

(2) The approaches to the Dardanelles are known to have been heavily mined, and exact details are not known. Possible anchorages are:

(a) Off Istanbul. There is a very strong current.
(b) One ship in Buyukdere Bay, and the other in Beikos Bay (on the other side of the Bosphorus, about two and one quarter miles away). There is not room for two ships in either of these bays. Therapia is within easy distance (about one mile) by boat from both these bays. Climate cold.

Phalerum Bay—The nearest anchorage to Athens which ships could use (within easy reach by road). The anchorage is an open one, but ships could shift to Salamis Bay (also within easy reach) in the event of Phalerum's becoming untenable. The approaches were all heavily mined but considerable sweeping has been done (operation MANNA) and cruisers now come and go freely. Suggest route from Russia would be by rail from Tiflis to Beirut, and thence by sea—or it may be possible to go direct by rail through Roumania and Bulgaria. Climate temperate.

Salonika—A good protected anchorage, but involving a long approach through waters which may be heavily mined. Malaria is rife. Route from Russia as for Phalerum Bay.

Cyprus—Only open anchorages are available off Famagusta and Limassol. Ships could shift from one to the other in the event of bad weather. These places are connected by an asphalt all-weather road, but are 60 miles apart. Suggested route from Russia would be by rail from Tiflis to Beirut, and thence by sea. Accommodation ashore is limited to government buildings and a few small hotels. Climate temperate. There is a danger of Malaria.

Beirut—Open anchorage. Climate temperate with little risk of gales, but fairly heavy rainfall. Some hotels. Direct rail communication with Tiflis.

Haifa—Open anchorage. Climate temperate with little risk of gales, but fairly heavy rainfall. Rail and first class road communication with Jerusalem direct rail communication with Tiflis.

Alexandria—A good protected anchorage with ample berthing space for both battleships. It is possible to reach Alexandria by rail from Tiflis. Hotel accommodation plentiful. Climate good.
FROM  The Prime Minister  

TO  The President

SERIAL or FILE NO.  815, 5 Nov 44. 

DATE  815, 5 Nov 44. 

TOR MAP ROOM  05/1720Z 

VIA  Army Code Room

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting. 

ACTION:

1. Continuation of PM-PRES #814, which answered PRES-PM #641, 2 Nov 44. 
2. Sent to the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-512, 05/1720Z. 
3. Answer written by the President after he had returned to Washington; sent to PM as PRES #643, 14 Nov 44. 

COPIES TO: 

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE 

DATE: 

BY DIRECTION OF: 

210 (2)
FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER
TO: THE PRESIDENT
NO: 814, 5 NOVEMBER 1944

1. Your number 641. I send you in my immediately following
the report which I called for from the First Sea Lord. The whole matter
has been carefully studied by the Admiralty and, as you will see, every
port is reported on separately. Our Sailors have pretty good knowledge
of these ports. On all this I consider the Black Sea out of the question
and the Piraeus very little better.

2. I am somewhat attracted by the suggestion of Jerusalem. Here
there are first-class hotels, government houses, etc., and every means
can be taken to ensure security. The warships could probably lie at
Haifa unless the weather turned very rough, in which case they could go
to Port Said or Alexandria.

3. Alexandria would probably be a feasible proposition.

4. U.J., could come by special train, with every form of pro-
tection, from Moscow to Jerusalem. I am having the timetables of the
journeys studied and will telegraph to you about them.

5. I think we ought to put the proposition to U.J., and throw on
him the onus of refusing. After all, we are respectable people too.

6. In the event of his not coming, I earnestly hope you will pay
your long-promised and deferred visit to Great Britain and then visit your
armies in France. The right thing would be to have the conference between
us in Britain. I have trenchered so often on your hospitality. We could
no doubt get Molotov to deputize for Stalin. He counts for a lot.

7. Perhaps you would send me a draft of the telegram we should
send to Stalin, after considering the information I am now sending you.
FROM: The Prime Minister  
TO: The President  

SERIAL or FILE NO.: 814, 5 Nov 44.  
DATE:  
TOR MAP ROOM: 05/1312Z  
VIA: Army Code Room  
SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.  

ACTION:  
1. Answers PRES-PM #614, 2 Nov 44. (Continued in PM-PRES #815.)  
2. Sent to President at Hyde Park as MI-OUT-510, 051515Z.  
3. Answer written by the President after he had returned to Washington; sent to PM as PRES #615, 14 Nov 44.  

COPIES TO:  
ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE  
DATE:  
BY DIRECTION OF:  

210(2)
FROM: OPNAV
TO: ALUSHA, LONDON

2 NOVEMBER 1944

NUMBER 641, PERSONAL AND TOP SECRET, FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR THE
PRIME MINISTER.

Referring to my 635, I have received a reply from U.J. which is
not very helpful in the selection of a place for our next meeting. He
states that if our meeting on the Soviet Black Sea coast is acceptable he
considers it an extremely desirable plan.

His doctors to whose opinion he must give consideration do not
wish him to make any "big trips."

He gave me no information as to location of the meeting, acces-
sibility, living conditions, etc., except to express a hope that it will
be possible to provide a safe entrance for my ship into the Black Sea.

He will be glad to see me as soon as I find it possible to make
the trip.

I do not wish to go to the Black Sea if it can be avoided, first
because the Congress will be in session at that time which makes it
imperative that I be at all times within rapid mail communication with
Washington by Air Mail, and, second because of sanitary conditions.

Dr. McIntire tells me that health conditions in Black Sea ports
such as Odessa are very bad, and we must think of the health of our staff
and our ships' crews as well as ourselves.

What do you think of the possibility of our inducing U.J. to meet
with us in Piraeus, Salonica, or Constantinople. Any of these would not
be a "big trip" for him.
Please give me your advice as to the best date for the meeting from your point of view, together with any information you may have in regard to a suitable place for the meeting, danger from enemy action, living conditions, etc. I will take a ship to wherever we may go.

I fear that Uncle Joe will insist on the Black Sea. I do think it important that we three should meet in the near future.

All advice and assistance that you can contribute to the solution of this problem will be appreciated.

ROOSEVELT
FROM: The President 

TO: The Prime Minister

SERIAL or FILE NO.: 641, 2 November 1944

DATE: 2 November 1944

TOR MAP ROOM: VIA

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Further to PRES-PM #635, 24 October 1944. Also see PM-PRES #808, 25 Oct 44.
2. Written by Admiral Leahy; approved by the President without change, 2 Nov 44, and dispatched.
3. Answered by PM-PRES #314, 5 Nov 44.

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<th>ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE</th>
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210(2)
FROM: MARSHAL STALIN
TO: THE PRESIDENT
29 OCTOBER 1944

I have received your message of October 25.

If the idea that was expressed earlier about the possibility of our meeting on the Soviet Black Sea coast appears to be acceptable for you I would consider it extremely desirable to realize this plan. The conditions for a meeting there are absolutely favorable. I hope that by that time it will be also possible to provide a safe entrance of your vessel into the Black Sea. Since the doctors do not recommend to undertake any big trips at the present time, I have to give consideration to that.

I shall be glad to see you as soon as you find it possible to undertake the trip.
FROM Marshal Stalin TO The President

DATE 29 October 1944

TOR MAP ROOM VIA Russian embassy

SUBJECT: Tripartite meeting.

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-STALIN #100, 24 Oct. 44. (Here referred to as "Yr message of October 25.")
2. Sent unopened upon receipt to the President.
3. To Admiral Leahy for action.
4. Admiral Leahy prepared message to Prime Minister Churchill, giving summary of Stalin's message, and requesting Churchill's views. Approved by President as written, sent to PM as PRES-PM #641, 2 Nov 44.
5. See PRES-STALIN #124, 13 Nov 44, for reply by President.

Regraded Unclassified
FROM: THE PRESIDENT

TO: THE PRIME MINISTER

NO: 635, 24 OCTOBER 1944

* * * * *

I have today sent the following to U.J.:

"I am delighted to learn from your message dated October 19 and from reports by Ambassador Harriman of the success attained by you and Mr. Churchill in approaching an agreement on a number of questions that are of high interest to all of us in our common desire to secure and maintain a satisfactory and a durable peace. I am sure that the progress made during your conversations in Moscow will facilitate and expedite our work in the next meeting when the three of us should come to a full agreement on our future activities and policies and mutual interests.

"We all must investigate the practicability of various places where our meeting in November can be held such as accessibility, living accommodations, security, etc., and I would appreciate suggestions from you.

"I have been thinking about the practicability of Malta, or Athens, or Cyprus if my getting into the Black Sea on a ship should be impracticable or too difficult. I prefer travelling and living on a ship.

"We know that the living conditions and security in Malta and Athens are satisfactory.

"I am looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you again.

"Please let me have your suggestions and advice."

I would, of course, prefer to have him come to the Mediterranean which would be more convenient for all of us.

My journey to New York was useful and rain does not hurt an old sailor. Thank you for your advice nevertheless. I am in top form for the "group undecipherable" election.

ROOSEVELT
FROM The President
TO The Prime Minister

SERIAL or FILE NO. 635, 24 Oct 44.

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: French Provisional Government; message to Stalin re three-power meeting.

ACTION:

1. Answers PM-PRES #804, 23 Oct 44, which was sent to the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-496, 23 Oct 44 (2318322).
2. MR-IN-177, 23 Oct 44 (2319502) stated: "FROM THE PRESIDENT TO ADMIRAL LEAHY. Re MR-OUT-496. Take up with me tomorrow morning, Tuesday."
3. Draft reply prepared by Admiral Leahy; approved with minor changes by the President 24 Oct 44.
5. See also PRES-STALIN #100, 24 Oct 44, re three-power meeting. This is same message quoted to PM in PRES #804.
6. See further PRES-Pm #641, 2 Nov 44.