

FLASH

Regraded Unclassified

BOX 30. SPECIAL FILES.

Folder 1. Joint U.S. British Monthly Statement on Submarine Warfare --
1943. [000.7(3) Sec. 1.]

Folder contains FDR-Churchill correspondence re policy
involved in release of effects of enemy submarine action,
together with correspondence between Naval (U.S. and

Map Room Files.

32

BOX 30. (continued) British) spokesmen, OWI (Elmer Davis), and others.
Official releases by U.S. and British authorities are
included as well as New York Times story based on these
official sources.

M
I
S
C
L

SEXTANT CONFERENCE

Minutes of Fifth Plenary Meeting, Held at the Villa Kirk, on
Monday, 6 December 1943 at 1930.

* * * * *

In answer to a question from the Prime Minister as to whether the draft
communique on the U-boat war had been approved, Admiral King stated that
the communique had been cleared with the President, that it had been
dispatched already to Washington, and that it would be released on the
10th of the month.

The Prime Minister suggested to the President that the communique
should be made out in alternate months by the United States and the British
respectively, and that as the British had prepared the present communique,
that for next month should be prepared by the United States. The President
agreed with this proposal.

* * * * *

CONFIDENTIAL

September 23, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Captain R. W. Berry, U.S.N., Acting Director
of Public Relations, Navy Department.

Subjects Radio Script Proposed for Broadcast Over the Blue
Network, 2230-2300 EDT, 28 September, 1943.

References (a) Acting Director's Memorandum of 22 September 1943.
(b) My memorandum of 8 July 1943 quoting Agreement
Between the President and the Prime Minister.

1. I have read the script enclosed with your memorandum of 22 September (returned herewith) and agree that it does not violate the spirit of the agreement between the President and the Prime Minister or security purposes any more than other recent publications and announcements on both sides of the Atlantic. As it is scheduled to be broadcast on the 28th of September with many naval interests involved, I recommend going ahead with it.

2. However, I should like to point out at this time that the agreement between the President and the Prime Minister was reached on the President's proposal because of repeated expressions of concern by Vice Admiral Edwards to me that facts were being published here and in England that would be ~~based~~ upon by the Japanese and applied against our own submarines. It seems to me, therefore, that even more than our concern about violating the spirit of any agreement is the concern we all share as to whether what we say or publish may help the Japanese in their anti-submarine campaign against us. My own fear is that they may ~~depend~~ upon the escort carrier. I recognize, however, that our anti-submarine experts are much better able to pass on that question than I am and I, therefore, suggest that White House approval is not necessary if we keep in mind the origin of the President's proposal and the terms of the agreement.

WILSON BROWN.

Copy to: Rear Admiral, U.S.N.,
Vice Admiral R. S. Edwards, Naval Aide to the President,
USN.

Rear Admiral F. S. Low, USN.

CONFIDENTIAL
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

SCR 14

FROM ADMIRALTY

ACTION AIG 1 355A

290533 *August*

The following instructions are issued regarding publicity and the anti U-boat warfare. The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain have been concerned at the number of statements which have been made from time to time by public persons and in the press on both sides of the Atlantic about anti U-boat warfare and the methods and devices employed in it. The enemy by piecing together portions of these statements may glean more information than is desirable.

It has therefore been decided that a monthly statement approved by the President and the Prime Minister, shall be issued on the 10th of every month and that apart from specially authorized announcement or statements by the President or the Prime Minister or duly constructive censored accounts of particular national incidents and actions this months statement will be the only one to be made on behalf of the British and American Government.

All departments have been so instructed and the press have been requested to cooperate in keeping the technical discussions of U-boat warfare within the limits of the official announcements. AIG 1 is as follows.

Addressed all senior officers, ships, establishments, W/T stations and other naval authorities, and civil establishments which may be concerned. Home and abroad and flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy. Headquarters Department of National Defence (Naval Service) Ottawa, Naval Board Navy Office Melbourne. From Admiralty.

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2, CG AAF, SGS, GEN DEANE (CCS), BPR, LOG

CM-IN-22 965 (30 Aug 43) 1952Z mcs

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY No. 51

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

Regraded Unclassified

July 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY
COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. FLEET
MR. ELMER DAVIS

On July 7 the President agreed to the Prime Minister's proposal of July 1 concerning a joint statement on submarine warfare.

A paraphrase of the Prime Minister's message is quoted for your information.

"London,
July 1, 1943.

"I propose that the Admiralty draft a statement monthly in general terms, and send it for your concurrence or amendment about the 5th of each month via the Navy Department or the British Admiralty Delegation in Washington. The agreed text is to be issued jointly on the 10th of each month.

"I agree to the prohibition of all other statements by persons holding official positions, the only exceptions being statements made personally by either of us or which we may specifically authorize from time to time, including over here those in Parliament.

"I am in agreement also that combat stories may be released from time to time after at least one month's delay and careful censoring in each case.

Churchill"

WILSON BROWN,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.

SECRET
OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

July 7, 1943

From: Opnav
To: Alusna, London

To the Former Naval Person from the President personal and
secret Number 305.

Your Number 340 I wholly agree.

Roosevelt

From: London
For: The President of the United States

Number 340, 1 July 1943.

Former Naval Person to President. Personal and most secret.

No. 340.

My personal telegram no. 299 of 5th June.

I propose that Admiralty should draft such a statement monthly, which would be in general terms, and send it via B. A. D. Washington and U. S. Navy Department for your concurrence or amendment about the 5th of each month, the agreed version to be issued jointly on the 10th day of each month.

I agree that all other statements by persons holding official positions should be prohibited, save those made personally by either of us or those which either of us may specifically authorize from time to time, including on this side statements in Parliament.

I also agree that carefully censored combat stories may be released from time to time after at least a month's delay in each case.

No Sig.

C O P Y

June 7, 1943.

Dear Elmer,

The President has seen and approved the enclosed message, prepared by the Navy Department as the United States proposal for a joint statement on 10 June in reference to the progress of the submarine warfare during the month of May.

The President directs that you send this, as our proposal, to your opposite number in London and that, hereafter, you take the initiative in preparing the message, getting the President's approval of it, and sending it to London.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Brown,
Rear Admiral, U.S.Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.

Mr. Elmer W. Davis,
Director, Office of War Information,
Washington, D.C.

Copy to:
Secretary of the Navy
Mr. Stephen T. Early

Regraded Unclassified

June 5, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL LEAHY
CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY
COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. FLEET
SECRETARY EARLY
HON. ELMER DAVIS

The President has authorized me to furnish you with paraphrased copies of the attached messages between the President and the Prime Minister for your information and guidance.

Very respectfully,

WILSON BROWN,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.

2 Incls.

(Paraphrases of Pres-PM #277, 3 July 1943,
and PM-Pres #299, 4 June 1943.)

- 1 -

To: The President of the United States
From: London.

No. 299, 4 June 1943.

Former Naval person to President Roosevelt personal and
most secret No. 299.

1. I had not noticed any serious leakage but I entirely agree with your idea of a monthly joint statement approved personally by you and me. This should cover any information given in general terms about loss in tonnage and say whether it is better or worse, as well as the progress of the attack on U boats. All other statements should be prevented as you suggest. Immediately on my return I will send you a more formal confirmation.

From: The President
To: The Prime Minister
No. 277, 3 June 1943.

I know that you will agree with me that we may expect the followers of the Mikado to seize upon any hint we may let fall about weapons, method of tactics used by us in successful anti-submarine warfare. It would be difficult to foretell the serious consequences of premature publication of our scientific development. We may be sure it will cost us many submarines and many lives. It seems to me that within the past month too much has been published both in the United States and in England and that serious harm will result if we do not check further disclosures. Can we not agree on a submarine statement to be issued jointly on the tenth day of each calendar month and take steps to prevent any other public statements about submarine warfare except carefully censored versions of individual combat?

Roosevelt

D
E
C

LOSSES TO U-BOATS CUT 60% LAST YEAR

Low Toll Taken in December
by Submarines, but Rise Over
November Is Hinted At

MERCHANT SHIPS DOUBLED

Net Gain Since 1942 Stressed
in Anglo-American Report—
Raiders Back in Caribbean

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10—United Nations' losses through U-boat action again were low during December despite expanded efforts by Nazi submarines, it was revealed tonight by a joint Anglo-American statement, which also disclosed what merchant shipping losses through submarine action in 1943 were 40 per cent of the 1942 total.

The report, authorized by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill and issued through the Office of War Information, again made clear that the once grave U-boat menace had been throttled, but it suggested by indirection that the December score might have been less satisfactory than in previous months.

Whereas the November report stated that merchant losses through U-boat action had been the lowest since May, 1940, and the October report stated that losses had been the second lowest of any month since the beginning of the war, the latest report said

merely that the total tonnage lost "was again low."

On the broad side of the shipping picture the Anglo-American statement pointed out that not only had 1943 losses been 40 per cent of the 1942 figure, but United Nations merchant ship tonnage constructed in 1943 was approximately double that of the previous year.

Supply-Flow Speeded

Thus the Allies made a notable advance the last year in the Battle of the Atlantic—an advance which military and naval observers here remark is reflected in the improved flow of supplies to every fighting front served by shipping from American Atlantic ports.

The satisfactory results in December were accomplished despite the fact that the Nazis again have moved into the Caribbean. Fewer U-boats were sunk by our anti-submarine forces, however, because of several factors, including "increased caution" by the enemy.

The text of the Anglo-American statement is as follows:

"1. Total merchant shipping tonnage lost by U-boat action in December was again low despite an extension of operation areas. Fewer U-boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces owing to several factors, including increased caution by enemy. Our supply routes were, however, well secured against U-boat attack.

"2. In 1943 U-boats sank but 40 per cent of the merchant tonnage that they sank in 1942. On the other hand, United Nations merchant tonnage constructed in 1943 approximately doubled the tonnage delivered in 1942. Nearly half of our tonnage lost for the year 1943 was during the first three months; 27 per cent was lost during the second quarter of 1943, and only 26 per cent was lost during the last six months."

Toll of U-Boats Put at 200

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (UP)—The Anglo-American statement on 1943 shipping losses issued today gave no figure on the number of U-boats destroyed, but it has been estimated that the Allied anti-submarine campaign accounted for some 200 of the marauders during 1943.

SECRET

10 January 1944

From: London

To: The President of the United States

No Number

Filed: 10/1625Z

Time of origin 1720 hours 10th January '44.

Prime Minister's Office to President's Office.

B.S.T.

Personal and most secret.

U-Boat statement. May we assume alternative proposal in paragraph one of telegram number 542 is acceptable?

No Sig

1720 Z
1720Z

No answer.

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

10 January 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ELMER DAVIS:

The Prime Minister has requested, in order to save time, that the Canadian Government be notified from Washington of the change in the submarine statement.

It is therefore requested that the Office of War Information inform the proper Canadian authorities of this change.

WILSON BROWN,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.,
Naval Aide to the President.

10 January 1944

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. ELMER DAVIS
CAPTAIN LELAND P. LOVETTE

The Prime Minister has suggested the substitution of the following paragraph in place of the first paragraph of the submarine statement which was quoted in my memorandum to you of 8 January:

"1. Total merchant shipping tonnage lost by U-Boat action in December was again low despite an extension of operating areas. Fewer U-Boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces owing to several factors, including increased caution by enemy. Our supply routes were, however, well secured against U-Boat attack."

The President has accepted the Prime Minister's suggestion. The second paragraph is unchanged.

WILSON BROWN,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.,
Naval Aide to the President.

SECRET

- 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET
SECRET
OP PRIORITY

10 January 1944

From: Opnav
To: Alusna, London

From the President for the Former Naval Person. Personal and secret. Number 439.

Your 542.

I concur in your paragraph one which we shall issue 24 hours after the original release time. The Canadians are being informed of the change.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 1135, EWT, 10 January 1944.

WILSON BROWN,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.,
Naval Aide to the President.

SECRET

- 1 -

101609 NCR 612
COPY

COPY

Regaded Unclassified

SECRET

9 January 1944

From: London

To: The President of the United States

Number 542

Filed: 09/1645Z

Prime Minister to President personal and most secret number 542. U-Boat statement. Your number 438.

1. Admiralty propose an alternative for all paragraph 1 which on the whole I prefer as follows. Begins.

Total merchant shipping tonnage lost by U-Boat action in December was again low despite an extension of operating areas. Fewer U-Boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces owing to several factors including increased caution by enemy. Our supply routes were, however, well secured against U-Boat attack. End.

^{* DO NOT}
We much like saying so plainly that a change in U-Boat tactics has been successful from their point of view. (As received. This sentence is being checked and any correction will follow). I think, also, we are entitled to remember that our supply routes were "well secured". Paragraph 2 is excellent.

* See attached correction.

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

COPY

COPY

SECRET

From: London Page 2
To: The President of the United States
Number 542 Filed: 09/1645Z

2. Pray settle it as you think best and
to save time, will you kindly inform the Canadians?
We agree to 24 hours delay in time of release.

No Sig

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET

From: Amembassy London

To: The President of the United States

No number

Filed 092059Z

Prime Minister to President. Personal and most
secret.

Correction to message number 542 today's date: for
"We much like saying so plain" read "We do not much like
saying so plainly".

No Sig

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET
OP PRIORITY

8 January 1944

From: Opnav
To: Alusna, London

From the President for the Former Naval Person. Personal and Secret. Number 438.

If no answer to my No. 433 relative submarine situation can be transmitted in time to be received here by 1600 E.W.T. Sunday, 9 January, recommend twenty-four hours delay in agreed time of release.

ROOSEVELT

SECRET
- 1 -

COPY

COPY

Regraded Unclassified

8 January 1944

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CAPTAIN LELAND P. LOVETTE
MR. ELMER DAVIS

The President approved the draft of the proposed January 10 statement on the submarine situation after he had made minor changes. The statement as approved by him has been forwarded to the Prime Minister for his concurrence and reads as follows:

"1. Our merchant ship tonnage lost during the month of December to U-boat action was relatively low. Fewer U-Boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces because of several factors: namely, a shift in U-Boat areas of operation and altered U-boat tactics. In the main, however, our supply routes continue to be reasonably secure.

"2. In 1943 U-boats sank but 40% of the merchant ship tonnage that they sank in 1942. On the other hand, United Nations merchant ship tonnage constructed in 1943 approximately doubled the tonnage delivered in 1942. Nearly half of our tonnage lost for the year 1943 was during the first three months: 27% was lost during the second quarter of 1943, and only 26% was lost during the last six months."

You will be informed when the Prime Minister's reply is received.

WILSON BROWN
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.
Naval Aide to the President

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

8 January 1944

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. ELMER DAVIS
CAPTAIN LELAND P. LOVETTE

The President approved the draft of the proposed January 10 statement on the submarine situation after he had made minor changes. The statement as approved by him has been forwarded to the Prime Minister for his concurrence and reads as follows:

"1. Our merchant ship tonnage lost during the month of December to U-boat action was relatively low. Fewer U-boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces because of several factors: namely, a shift in U-boat areas of operation and altered U-boat tactics. In the main, however, our supply routes continue to be reasonably secure.

"2. In 1943 U-boats sank but 40% of the merchant ship tonnage that they sank in 1942. On the other hand, United Nations merchant ship tonnage constructed in 1943 approximately doubled the tonnage delivered in 1942. Nearly half of our tonnage lost for the year 1943 was during the first three months; 27% was lost during the second quarter of 1943, and only 26% was lost during the last six months."

You will be informed when the Prime Minister's reply is received.

WILSON BROWN
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.
Naval Aide to the President

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET
OF PRIORITY

4 JANUARY 1944

FROM: OPNAV
TO: ALUSNA, LONDON

NUMBER 433, SECRET AND PERSONAL, FOR THE FORMER NAVAL PERSON FROM
THE PRESIDENT.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING DRAFT OF THE PROPOS
JANUARY TENTH STATEMENT ON THE SUBMARINE SITUATION. I CONCUR.

"1. OUR MERCHANT SHIP TONNAGE LOST DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
TO U-BOAT ACTION WAS RELATIVELY LOW. FEWER U-BOATS WERE DESTROYED DURI
THE MONTH BY OUR AIR AND SEA FORCES BECAUSE OF SEVERAL FACTORS: NAMELY,
A SHIFT IN U-BOAT AREAS OF OPERATION AND ALTERED U-BOAT TACTICS. IN TH
MAIN, HOWEVER, OUR SUPPLY ROUTES CONTINUE TO BE REASONABLY SECURE.

"2. IN 1943 U-BOATS SANK BUT 40% OF THE MERCHANT SHIP TONNAGE
THAT THEY SANK IN 1942. ON THE OTHER HAND, UNITED NATIONS MERCHANT SHIP
TONNAGE CONSTRUCTED IN 1943 APPROXIMATELY DOUBLED THE TONNAGE DELIVERED
IN 1942. NEARLY HALF OF OUR TONNAGE LOST FOR THE YEAR 1943 WAS DURING
THE FIRST THREE MONTHS; 27% WAS LOST DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1943,
AND ONLY 26% WAS LOST DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS."

DO YOU AGREE?

ROOSEVELT

SECRET

- 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WASHINGTON

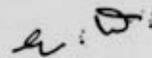
January 4, 1944

Rear Admiral Wilson Brown
Naval Aide to the President
The White House

Dear Wilson:

Here is the proposed
submarine statement for January 10
as prepared by the Navy Department.

Cordially,



Elmer Davis

Attachments: 2

SECRET

SECRET

PROPOSED JANUARY TENTH STATEMENT

SECRET

ON SUBMARINE SITUATION

1. Our merchant ship tonnage lost during the month of December to U-boat action was relatively low and at a reasonably satisfactory level. Fewer U-boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces because of several factors; namely, a shift in U-boat areas of operation and altered U-boat tactics. In the main, however, our supply routes continue to be satisfactorily secure.

2. In 1943 U-boats sank but 40% of the merchant ship tonnage that they sank in 1942. On the other hand, United Nations merchant ship tonnage constructed in 1943 approximately doubled the tonnage delivered in 1942. Nearly half of our tonnage lost for the year was during the first three months; 27% was lost during the second quarter of 1943, and only 26% was lost during the last six months.

SECRET

*President corrected, sent to PM
as # 433.*

SECRET

PROPOSED JANUARY TENTH STATEMENT

ON SUBMARINE SITUATION

SECRET

1. Our merchant ship tonnage lost during the month of December to U-boat action was relatively low and at a reasonably satisfactory level. Fewer U-boats were destroyed during the month by our air and sea forces because of several factors; namely, a shift in U-boat areas of operation and altered U-boat tactics. In the main, however, our supply routes continue to be satisfactorily secure.

2. In 1943 U-boats sank but 40% of the merchant ship tonnage that they sank in 1942. On the other hand, United Nations merchant ship tonnage constructed in 1943 approximately doubled the tonnage delivered in 1942. Nearly half of our tonnage lost for the year was during the first three months; 27% was lost during the second quarter of 1943, and only 26% was lost during the last six months.

SECRET

*President corrected, sent to PM
as # 433.*

N
O
V

ADVANCE RELEASE ADVANCE RELEASE

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

ADVANCE RELEASE: To Be Held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and NOT TO BE USED
by PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 7:30 p.m., EWT, THURSDAY, December 9, 1943

OWI-2776

The following joint Anglo-American statement on submarine and anti-submarine operations is issued under the authority of the President and the Prime Minister:

Anti U-Boat operations in November have been notable, for the enemy has achieved little for the great effort he has exerted. The number of merchant vessels sunk by U-Boats in November is less than in any other month since May, 1940.

By means of aircraft operating from Azores we have been able to improve protection to our convoys and to diminish area in which enemy U-Boats were free from attack by our forces.

The enemy has used long range aircraft to assist in concentrating U-Boats on our convoy routes but in spite of this our escort and counterattack has been effective.

The caution of the enemy U-Boats has lessened the number of opportunities presented to our forces for striking at them. Nevertheless, the number of U-Boats sunk in November has again exceeded the number of their victims.

#####

SECRET

6 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ADMIRAL EDWARDS (for action)
MR. STEPHEN EARLY (for information only)

The following message has been received at the White House from Admiral Wilson Brown with instructions to pass to Admiral Edwards:

"Prior to the receipt of the Navy Department's draft for the December anti-submarine statement, submitted to the President on 5 December, the President had approved a statement suggested by Admiral Cunningham to Admiral King. The text of the approved statement is as follows:

'Anti U-Boat operations in November have been notable, for little enemy has achieved for great effort he has exerted. The number of merchant vessels sunk by U-Boats in November is less than in any other month since May, 1940.

'By means of aircraft operating from Azores we have been able to improve protection to our convoys and to diminish area in which enemy U-Boats were free from attack by our forces.

'The enemy has used long range aircraft to assist in concentrating U-Boats on our convoy routes but in spite of this our escort and counterattack has been effective.

'The caution of the enemy U-Boats has lessened the number of opportunities presented to our forces for striking at them. Nevertheless, the number of U-Boats sunk in November has again exceeded the number of their victims.'

"Please issue necessary instructions to OWI and inform Mr. Early."

L. MATHEWSON,
Colonel, General Staff

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

PROPOSED DECEMBER TENTH STATEMENT
ON SUBMARINE SITUATION

1. Operations of German U-boats were characterized by relatively light activity during November.
2. November was one of the best months of the war in respect to merchant ship tonnage losses from all causes including Marine casualties.
3. German U-boat tactics continue to change, but our surface ships and aircraft continue to match them -- move for move.

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MESSAGE FORM
IN COMING

CLASSIFICATION

No. _____ FROM _____ DATE _____
RECEIVED _____
DECODED _____
FOR _____

Memorandum for: Admiral King.
From: First Sea Lord
Subject: Monthly Anti-U-Boat warfare statement.
Date: - 14th December 1943

Attached is the draft monthly statement the Prime-Minister proposes should be issued about Anti-U-Boat Warfare for the month of November.

Will you please submit it to the President for his concurrence?

Andrew Cunningham

14 Dec 43

Naval Aide to the President

Please submit to the President.

I am unable to verify at this time the statements made.
I question the advisability of the last paragraph, particularly the last sentence.

E. J. King "

O
C
T

60 U-BOATS BAGGED IN LAST 3 MONTHS

President Reveals Allied Toll
in Six Months Is 150—Our
Losses Far Lower

OCTOBER RECORD 2D BEST

Merchant Ship Destruction
Reduced by More Than Half
in Past Quarter-Year

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—President Roosevelt announced today that the Allies sunk more U-boats in the last three months than the enemy sunk Allied merchant ships, and that our tonnage losses in October were the second lowest of any month of the war. We sank sixty submarines in August, September and October, and 150 in the last six months, he said.

The President read at his press conference the regular periodical statement on status of submarine warfare authorized some time ago by Prime Minister Churchill and himself. It is an Anglo-American report issued here by the Office of War Information.

Commenting on the report that "our tonnage losses from all causes in October were the second lowest

for any month of the war," the President told his press conference that the August losses were slightly lower—a very, very little less.

The President described the sixty U-boats reported sunk in the last three months as certain kills. In addition, he added, there were many others damaged.

"The record of the last three months is particularly gratifying," the report said, "because during most of this period fewer U-boats were operating, fewer targets were presented for our air and sea forces."

The text of the statement follows:

During the months of August, September and October approximately sixty U-boats were destroyed. This brings to more than 150 the number of U-boats destroyed during the last six months. The record of the last three months is particularly gratifying because during most of this period fewer U-boats were operating, fewer targets were presented for our air and sea forces.

2. During August, September and October, more U-boats were destroyed than Allied merchant ships were sunk by U-boat action. The ratio of U-boat to merchant ship attrition during October was more satisfactory than in any previous month. Our tonnage losses from all causes in October were the second lowest of any month of the war.

3. Merchant ship tonnage lost to U-boat action during the last three months was less than one-half the merchant ship tonnage lost during the previous three months despite the fact that actual shipping increased.

4. The Germans have introduced new U-boat weapons and tactics. Thus far we have been able to cope successfully with the changing situation. The battle continues in full vigor.

6 November 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR

COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. FLEET
MR. ELMER DAVIS

The Prime Minister has accepted the anti-submarine statement for October with one amendment. Latest figures have increased losses in October and he therefore suggested that the last sentence of paragraph 2 be amended to read:

"Our tonnage losses from all causes in October were the second lowest of any month of the war".

The President has accepted the Prime Minister's suggested amendment.

WILSON BROWN,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.

SECRET
PRIORITY

5 November 1943

From: The President
To: The Prime Minister
No: 408.

Your Number 491. Thank you for your prompt reply. We shall issue the statement as amended by you at the agreed time.

ROOSEVELT

SECRET

5 November 1943. *WZ*

From: London
For: The President of the United States

Number 491,

Filed 051113Z

Prime Minister to President Roosevelt number 491
personal and secret.

Your number 405, anti U boat warfare statement
for October. I entirely agree subject to one point.
Latest figures have increased losses in October, which
now becomes second best month of war, August being the
best. I suggest therefore that last sentence of para-
graph two be amended to read "Our tonnage losses from
all causes in October were the second lowest of any
month of the war".

I am sending text as amended to Mackenzie King
and will let you know as soon as he has replied.

No Sig

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET

1 November 1943

MRB

FROM: The President
TO: The Prime Minister
NO: 405, 1 November 1943.

Our Office of War Information and Navy Department recommend the following statement, with which I agree:

"1. During the months of August, September and October approximately 60 U-boats were destroyed. This brings to more than 150 the number of U-boats destroyed during the last six months. The record of the last three months is particularly gratifying because during most of this period fewer U-boats were operating, fewer targets were presented for our air and sea forces.

"2. During August, September and October more U-boats were destroyed than Allied merchant ships were sunk by U-boat action. The ratio of U-boat to merchant ship attrition during October was more satisfactory than in any previous month. In fact, our tonnage losses from all causes in October were the lowest of any month of the war.

"3. Merchant ship tonnage lost to U-boat action during the last three months was less than one-half the merchant ship tonnage lost during the previous three months despite the fact that actual shipping increased.

"4. The Germans have introduced new U-boat weapons and tactics. Thus far we have been able to cope successfully with the changing situation. The battle continues in full vigor."

ROOSEVELT

020308 NCR 9448

. - 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

BLACK 8 (Hyde Park to Map Room)

1 November 1943

FOR ADMIRAL LEAHY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Approve WHITE 31; subject: Submarine Monthly Report. Please transmit to Prime Minister for his approval.

Recd in Map Room 02/0205Z

SECRET

Sent as White

PROPOSED NOVEMBER TENTH STATEMENT
ON SUBMARINE SITUATION

1. During the months of August, September and October approximately 60 U-boats were destroyed. This brings to more than 150 the number of U-boats destroyed during the last six months. The record of the last three months is particularly gratifying because during most of this period fewer U-boats were operating, fewer targets were presented for our air and sea forces.

2. During August, September and October more U-boats were destroyed than Allied merchant ships were sunk by U-boat action. The ratio of U-boat to merchant ship attrition during October was more satisfactory than in any previous month. In fact, our tonnage losses from all causes in October were the lowest of any month of the war.

3. Merchant ship tonnage lost to U-boat action during the last three months was less than one-half the merchant ship tonnage lost during the previous three months despite the fact that actual shipping increased.

4. The Germans have introduced new U-boat weapons and tactics. Thus far we have been able to cope successfully with the changing situation. The battle continues in full vigor.

Sent to the President at Hyde Park
as WHITE 31, 01/1914Z.



NAVY DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OOR (33910)

SECRET

1 November 1943

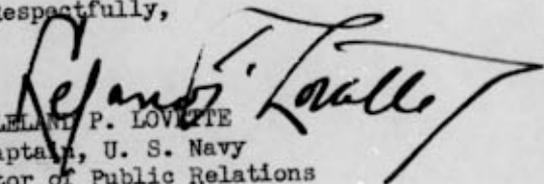
MEMORANDUM for Rear Admiral Wilson Brown, U. S. Navy
The Naval Aide to the President
The White House

Enclosed herewith a proposed statement on the submarine situation.

The attached statement has the approval of the Secretary of the Navy, Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, and the Director of the Office of War Information.

I believe that this statement is about the most complete and informative that has been drafted to date.

Respectfully,


LELAND P. LOVETTE
Captain, U. S. Navy
Director of Public Relations

Enc. (HW)

From: The Prime Minister

To: The President

No: 480, 30 October 1943

Your No. 402.

1. I was not aware you had been rushed at the last minute on any occasion, and I am very sorry if any inconvenience was caused and if I am to blame. In any case the date of the tenth was not a fixture and a day or two's delay could always have been obtained. In fact we did delay three or four days so as to settle it at Hyde Park in August.

2. I will await your draft instead of submitting one myself. Please send it to me, as the Admiralty have to express their view and I promised to keep Mackenzie King in on it.

3. We have had a magnificent month, barely 100,000 tons of sinkings and at least twenty two certain kills and nine probables. In fact, taking both sinkings and killings together, it is an all time high for the Firm.

Sent to the President at Hyde Park as
White 10, 30 Oct 43.

30 October 1943

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. FLEET
MR. RIMER DAVIS

For your information, there is forwarded a paraphrase of a message from the President to the Prime Minister dated 29 October 1943:

"So that we may not be rushed at the last minute, I have directed our Office of War Information to send to Mr. Brendan Bracken early next week our suggestion for the Joint Anti-submarine Statement for October. I shall appreciate an agreement on the statement well before the date of issue."

Very respectfully,

GEORGE M. ELSEY,
Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.,
Assistant to the Naval Aide.

SECRET

- 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET

PRIORITY
SECRET

29 October 1943

From: Opnav
To: Alusna, London

Personal and secret from the President to the Former Naval Person.
Number 402.

In order that we may not be rushed at the last minute I have directed our OWI to send to Brachen early next week our suggestion for the October Joint Anti-submarine Statement. I will appreciate an agreement on the statement well before the date of issue.

ROOSEVELT

SECRET

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 25, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

*Send to Adm Brown
NAN.
Received 3/1/50
File
WS.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HON. HARRY HOPKINS:

Secretary Knox and Admiral Edwards agree with me that the draft for the monthly joint submarine statement should hereafter be written here and sent to London for clearance, to avoid such painful errors as occurred last time. This was the original arrangement, but the first draft was written in Cominch's office and naturally contained practically nothing. The present proposal is that the draft be written by Navy Public Relations, with the advice and assistance of OWI, cleared with Cominch, and then sent to London for British approval. There appears to be no reason why normally this could not be done about the 2nd or 3rd of the month, thus avoiding the usual last-minute rush in which errors remain uncorrected.

Since, however, the present arrangement is that the first draft is written by the British Admiralty and sent over here for clearance, I think any alteration as suggested above should properly be made by direct communication between the President and the Prime Minister.

Cordially,

E.D.

Elmer Davis
Director



S
E
P
T

JOINT
SUBMARINE WARFARE STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER

The Prime Minister initiated the September Submarine Warfare Statement in his message #439 of 7 October 1943 to the President. This message was transmitted from the Map Room to the President at Hyde Park as WHITE 4, and was received at Hyde Park at 1235, EWT, 7 Oct 43. The message Follows:

"From: The Prime Minister.

"To: The President of the United States.

"No: 439, 7 October 1943.

"1. Following is draft of proposed joint statement regarding U-Boat warfare in September. I shall be glad to receive your comments as early as possible. Begins:

"(1) Until the 3rd week in September no Allied merchant ship was lost by German U-Boat attack. Then, on the 19th September, the U-Boats ended the 4 months lull in the North Atlantic, and a pack of at least 15 U-Boats concentrated on a westbound convoy. The combat lasted 4 1/2 days. The loss of 3 escort vessels has already been announced. A small number of merchant ships were sunk. As a result of vigorous counter attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-Boats were sunk or damaged.

"(2) In spite of the increase in U-Boat activity at the end of the month, the average merchant ship losses from all causes in September and August together are the best record of the war.

"(3) Nevertheless this resumption of pack tactics is evidence of the enemy's intention to spare no efforts to turn the tide of the U-Boat war and the utmost exertion and vigilance will be required before its menace is finally removed."

"2. I suggest that as originally intended, this and future statements should be headed 'Issued under the authority of the President and the Prime Minister'. Do you agree?

"Prime"

The President, in his BLACK 1 to the Map Room, 07/1335 EWT, directed that the following approval be sent to the Prime Minister:

"From: The President.

"To: The Prime Minister.

"No: 378, 7 October 1943.

"I fully agree with your 439, including the new heading. However, can it be proved that a larger number of U-Boats were sunk than we lost in escort ships and merchant ships?"

"Roosevelt"

Prior to the receipt of the President's BLACK 1, which approved the Prime's suggested statement, Colonel Hammond, by direction of Admiral Brown, sent the following memorandum to Admiral King and to Elmer Davis, requesting their views and suggestions on the statement:

"7 October 1943.

"MEMORANDUM FOR

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, U.S. FLEET.
MR. ELMER DAVIS.

"The President desires that you submit your comments to him with reference to the attached message as early as practicable and not later than 8 October 1943.

"It is requested that the above mentioned comments be addressed to the President at the Map Room, the White House.

/s/ Chester Hammond

CHESTER HAMMOND,
Lt. Colonel, General Staff,
Assistant to the Military Aide.

"1 Incl.

"PM-Pres #439, 7 Oct 43."

Admiral King replied with the following memorandum, which was received in the Map Room at approximately 07/1415 EWT, but which was not transmitted to the President since the President's approval had already been received in BLACK 1:

"7 October 1943.

"MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

"The proposed joint statement regarding U-boat warfare in September, contained in Prime Minister's dispatch No. 439 of 7 October, is considered satisfactory.

/s/ E. J. King
E. J. KING"

(See Attachment #1)

Mr. Davis's suggestions had not yet been received.

At 07/1730 EWT, Colonel Hammond sent a memorandum to Mr. Elmer Davis, stating that the President had approved the joint announcement as proposed by the Prime Minister, and directing that it be released. The memorandum in full stated:

"7 October 1943.

"MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ELMER DAVIS

"Word has just been received from the President that he fully agrees with the Prime Minister's message No. 439, dated October 7, concerning U-Boat warfare, including the new heading.

"A copy of this message was sent to you earlier today.

"The President directs that you arrange for the release of this joint statement, and coordinate such release with London.

/s/ Chester Hammond,

CHESTER HAMMOND,
Lt. Colonel, General Staff,
Assistant to the Military Aide."

On the morning of 8 Oct 43, at 0945 EWT, Mr. Elmer Davis contacted Admiral Brown by phone from New York, and suggested several changes in the statement proposed by the Prime Minister. These suggested changes were sent to the President as WHITE 14, 08/1017 EWT:

"From: Admiral Brown.

"To: The President.

"No: WHITE 14, 8 October 1943.

"Office of War Information offers the following comments on proposed statement. (Map Room Note. This is with reference to WHITES 4 and 5 and BLACK 1 re Joint Statement on Submarine Warfare. This was telephoned by Elmer Davis from New York and forwarded to you at his request. OWI has been informed that you have already agreed to the text suggested by the Prime Minister).

"Para 1, Sentence 4. It should be made clear whether this is the total of escort vessels sunk. Sentence 5: the precise number of merchant ships sunk should be given. Sentence 6: the number of boats should be given as nearly as possible.

"Para 2. There seems no reason to lump August and September together. Why not merely say that September had the lowest tonnage sunk in the war."

In the early afternoon, Admiral Brown suggested that Major Greer, communications officer at Hyde Park, be contacted to see if any reply were forthcoming in answer to WHITE 14. Major Greer said that the President, upon reading WHITE 14, remarked that there would be "no answer". Admiral Brown then phoned Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Davis' assistant, informing him that the Prime Minister's original statement would be published without correction, and that he, Mr. Hoyt, should inform Mr. Davis in New York.

A change was, however, suggested by the Prime Minister in his message No. 447 to the President, received in the Map Room at 1220 BWT on 9 Oct, which answered the President's message No. 378. The message follows:

"From: The Prime Minister.

"To: The President of the United States.

"No: 447, 9 Oct 1943.

"Your number 378.

- "1. The answer to your question is 'no'.
- "2. Our estimate is that at least three U-Boats were sunk and six seriously damaged. Three escort vessels and six merchant vessels were sunk.
- "3. The statement is intended to compare the number of U-Boats sunk or damaged with the number of merchant ships sunk.
- "4. To meet your point, however, we are altering the last two sentences of Paragraph 1 (inter) of my number 439 to read 'A small number of merchant ships were sunk but as a result of vigorous counter attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-Boats were sunk or damaged.' We are issuing this statement here at the agreed time of 2330 GMT 9th October."

Colonel Hammond showed this message to Mr. Harry Hopkins, who stated that the President, after repeated personal calls from Mr. Davis, had directed Mr. Hopkins to handle the entire matter of the joint release, and that, therefore, it should not be sent to the President.

Approval of the Prime Minister's recommended change, together with a directive to issue this statement as amended to the press at 2330 GMT, 9 October, was incorporated in the following memorandum from Mr. Hopkins to Mr. Davis: *10 October 1943.*

"October 9th, 1943

"MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. ELMER DAVIS

"Dear Elmer:

"The President asked me to resolve the matter of the Joint Submarine Communique.

"It seems to me that the proposals you made to Admiral Brown over the telephone raise very serious matters of policy with which you and Admiral King may be in very sharp disagreement.

"As you know, the President is away and I am sure that the proposals you make would mean a long delay in the issuance of this communique and, indeed, the same issue will come up with every future communique. Hence, I think the points you raise should be settled on the merits of the case and whatever decision is made should govern the policy on all future communiqués. I should think this could be resolved some time in the next week or so and before the next issuance of the October communique.

"I would not express any opinion about your proposals other than that they seem to have general implications covering all future communiqués and, hence, should be decided with that in mind.

"The President has accepted the following change in the communique - which was recommended by the Prime Minister:

'A small number of merchant ships were sunk but as a result of vigorous counter attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-boats were sunk or damaged.'

"I think there is nothing, therefore, that can be done except to issue this at the agreed time of 2330 GMT 9 October.

"Sincerely yours,

"Harry L. Hopkins"

(See attachment #2)

The statement was issued by the Office of War Information for release to the public at 7:30 p.m., EWT, Saturday, 9 October 1943, (See Attachment #3.) Attachment #4 is a clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES of Sunday, 10 October 1943.

SECRET
XXXXX

CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE UNITED STATES

The proposed joint statement regarding the
release of the factory mentioned in Prime Minister's dispatch
No. 427 of 1 October, is considered satisfactory.

E. J. King

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

7 October, 1943.

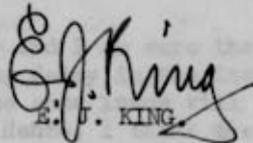
SECRET

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The proposed joint statement regarding U-boat warfare in September, contained in Prime Minister's dispatch No. 439 of 7 October, is considered satisfactory.

As you know, the President is very keen on the proposal you have made and, indeed, has come up with every future communiqué. The points you raise should be settled on the basis of the case and whatever decision is made should govern the policy on all future communiqués. I should think this could be resolved some time in the next week or so and before the next issuance of the October communiqué.


E. J. KING

I would not express my opinion about your proposals other than that they seem to have general implications covering all future communiqués and, hence, should be decided with that in mind.

The President has accepted the following change in the communiqué - which was recommended by the Prime Minister:

"A small number of merchant ships were sunk but as a result of vigorous counter attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-boats were sunk or damaged."

I think there is nothing, therefore, that can be done except to issue this at the agreed time of 2330 GMT 9 October.

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Hopkins

ATTACHMENT #1

Regraded Unclassified

Map Room

C
O
P
Y

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 9th, 1943

~~SECRET~~

October 9, 1943.

~~NOT USED~~
MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. ELMER DAVIS

~~SECRET~~

~~MEMO~~ Dear Elmer:

The President asked me to resolve the matter of the Joint Submarine Communique.

A message had just been received from the Prime Minister. It seems to me that the proposals you made to Admiral Brown over the telephone raise very serious matters of policy with which you and Admiral King may be in very sharp disagreement.

"A small number of merchant ships were sunk. As you know, the President is away and I am sure that the proposals you make would mean a long delay in the issuance of this communique and, indeed, the same issue will come up with every future communique. Hence, I think the points you raise should be settled on the merits of the case and whatever decision is made should govern the policy on all future communiques. I should think this could be resolved some time in the next week or so and before the next issuance of the October communique.

I would not express any opinion about your proposals other than that they seem to have general implications covering all future communiques and, hence, should be decided with that in mind.

The President has accepted the following change in the communique - which was recommended by the Prime Minister:

"A small number of merchant ships were sunk but as a result of vigorous counter attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-boats were sunk or damaged."

I think there is nothing, therefore, that can be done except to issue this at the agreed time of 2330 GMT 9 October.

Sincerely yours,

Harry L. Hopkins

ATTACHMENT #2

~~NOT USED~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

October 9, 1943.

~~NOT USED~~

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Elmer Davis.

A message has just been received from the Prime Minister which alters the text of the statement on U-boat warfare in September. The last two sentences of paragraph one have been combined into one sentence reading as follows:

"A small number of merchant ships were sunk but as a result of vigorous counter attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-boats were sunk or damaged."

The Prime Minister is issuing this statement at the agreed time of 2330 GMT 9 October.

HARRY L. HOPKINS.

NOT USED

NOT USED

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

OWI-2584

ADVANCE RELEASE: To be held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and NOT TO BE USED by PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 7:30 p.m., EWT, Saturday, October 9, 1943

The following joint Anglo-American statement on submarine and anti-submarine operations in September is issued under the authority of the President and the Prime Minister:

1. Until the third week in September no allied ship was lost by German U-boat attack. Then, on the 19th of September, the U-boats ended the four-months' lull in the North Atlantic, and a pack of at least fifteen U-boats concentrated on a west-bound convoy. The combat lasted four and a half days. The loss of three escort vessels has already been announced. A small number of merchant ships were sunk, but as a result of vigorous counterattacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-boats were sunk or damaged.

2. In spite of the increase in U-boat activity at the end of the month, the average merchant-ship losses from all causes in September and August together are the best record of the war.

3. Nevertheless, this resumption of pack tactics is evidence of the enemy's intention to spare no efforts to turn the tide of the U-boat war, and the utmost exertion and vigilance will be required before its menace is finally removed.

MAILED (U.S.) Oct 12th from OWT
File

X-21508

ALLIED LOSS LIGHT AS U-BOATS RETURN

Roosevelt and Churchill Say
Germans Lost Many Craft
in First Engagement

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill said in a joint statement on submarine warfare issued today that U-boats began to attack again after the middle of September, but that the average merchant ship losses from all causes in the two months of August and September were still the best record of the war.

It was noteworthy that the statement was originally issued by the Office of War Information for release tomorrow night. On representations being made, that London was to have it tonight, however, OWI advanced the release date. Otherwise Mr. Churchill apparently would once more have scooped Mr. Elmer Davis.

The statement, issued under the authority of the President and Prime Minister, was as follows:

Until the third week in September no Allied ship was lost by German U-boat attack. Then, on the 19th of September, the U-boats ended the four-months' lull in the North Atlantic, and a pack of at least fifteen U-boats

concentrated on a westbound convoy. The combat lasted four and a half days. The loss of three escort vessels has already been announced. A small number of merchant ships were sunk, but as a result of vigorous counter-attacks by the surface and air escorts a larger number of U-boats were sunk or damaged.

In spite of the increase in U-boat activity at the end of the month, the average merchant ship losses from all causes in September and August together are the best record of the war.

Nevertheless, this resumption of pack tactics is evidence of the enemy's intention to spare no efforts to turn the tide of the U-boat war, and the utmost exertion and vigilance will be required before its menace is finally removed.

A
U
G

ADVANCE RELEASE ---- ADVANCE RELEASE

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

Advance Release: To Be Held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and NOT TO BE USED
By PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 7:30 p.m., EDT, FRIDAY, Sept. 10, 1943

OWI-2476

The following statement is issued by the Office of War Information and the British Ministry of Information after consultation with the British Admiralty, United States Navy Department, and Canadian Department of National Defense for Naval Services:

1. August has been another successful month in U-boat warfare. Owing perhaps to rearmament and other causes, there appear to have been fewer U-boats at sea than in recent months, and shipping losses have continued to decrease.
2. It is significant that the enemy made virtually no attempt to attack North Atlantic shipping, and opportunities for attacking the U-boats have been relatively few. Nevertheless, U-boats have been hunted relentlessly on all stations wherever they have appeared and a heavy toll has been taken of the enemy. In fact more U-boats have been sunk than merchant ships.
3. Surface and Air forces have both contributed to this satisfactory month's work by the efficiency of their escorts, patrols and offensive operations. Shore-based aircraft have often had to face powerful enemy Air opposition, and carrier-borne aircraft have played a most important part.
4. We are ready to attack the enemy with utmost vigor should he provide the opportunity by resuming a general attack on our shipping with the very large number of U-boats at his disposal.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

September 9, 1943.

11:45 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE:

In a telephone conversation between Rear Admiral Wilson Brown, U.S.N., and Captain R. W. Berry, U.S.N., Deputy Director of Public Relations, Navy Department, Captain Berry agreed to arrange with Mr. Elmer Davis, Director of Office of War Information, for the release of the joint anti-submarine statement exactly as proposed originally by the Prime Minister, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The statement to be issued as from the two governments rather than from the President and the Prime Minister.
- (b) The exact text to be cabled to London.
- (c) The time of release to be arranged by Mr. Davis and London.


Wilson Brown,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.

Copy to:

Mr. Martin (Secretary to the Prime Minister)
Captain R. W. Berry, USN.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Admiral
File
W

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN.

In confirmation of our telephone conversation, the Prime Minister has been informed by Mr. Mackenzie King that he has no objection to the terms of the proposed statement on U-Boat Warfare in August.

I should be grateful if you will let me know whether the draft is approved on your side, so that simultaneous publication on September 10 can be arranged.

J. M. Mackin

8. 9. 43.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE
PRIME MINISTER.

1. August has been another successful month in U-Boat warfare. Owing perhaps to re-armament and other causes, there appear to have been fewer U-Boats at sea than in recent months, and shipping losses have continued to decrease.

2. It is significant that the enemy made virtually no attempt to attack North Atlantic shipping, and opportunities for attacking the U-Boats have been relatively few. Nevertheless, U-Boats have been hunted relentlessly on all stations wherever they have appeared and a heavy toll has been taken of the enemy. In fact more U-Boats have been sunk than merchant ships.

3. Surface and Air forces have both contributed to this satisfactory month's work by the efficiency of their escorts, patrols and offensive operations. Shore-based aircraft have often had to face powerful enemy Air opposition, and carrier-borne aircraft have played a most important part.

4. We are ready to attack the enemy with utmost vigour should he provide the opportunity by resuming a general attack on our shipping with the very large number of U-Boats at his disposal.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

September 6, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Elmer Davis, Director,
Office of War Information.
Captain Leland P. Lovette, USN.,
Director of Public Relations,
Navy Department.

The Prime Minister presented the enclosed preliminary draft of a joint statement for August, which he has sent to the Canadians for their comment. I understand that the British proposal will be made formally after they have received the Canadian's comment.

The President sends you this as advance information.

Wilson Brown,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.

BEGIN:

Please write
the notes
on this page

File
MS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT TO SEE.

The draft of the proposed joint
statement has been telegraphed to
Mr. Mackenzie King for his observations.

MOST SECRET.

Copy No. _____

IMMEDIATE.

September 4, 1943.

PERSONAL FOR PRIME MINISTER FROM FIRST LORD. *and First Sea Lord.*

RE: Your WELFARE 584. (U-Boat Statement).

1. On the basis of the number of U-Boats sunk in relation to our shipping losses, August has been the best month of the war. Our shipping losses from U-Boat attack were 13 ships of 86,000 tons and we have sunk 20 German and Italian, and two Japanese U-Boats.
2. Owing to the number of supply boats sunk, the enemy have had to withdraw a large number of U-Boats which would normally have operated for considerably longer.
3. For this reason, and for others, including the re-arming of U-Boats, the enemy have not developed their full power to attack shipping routes.
4. We estimate enemy has about 140 U-Boats based on Biscay ports and a further 200 in commission in the Baltic, including school boats, a large number of which should be ready to sail for the Atlantic now. There are signs that the flow of U-Boats from the Baltic to the Atlantic is already starting.
5. Although the results for August are very good, it is recommended that your statement with the President should not (repeat NOT) give too much emphasis to this because the public do not appreciate the possibilities of the U-Boat force at the enemy's disposal. A very favourable statement this month, taken into account with your statement last month, would be inclined to encourage a feeling that the U-Boat war is over. It is proposed that your statement with the President should take the following line.
6. Heading of proposed statement. As a result of the Prime Minister's recent agreement with Mr. Mackenzie King that the Canadians were to be consulted before the issue of each monthly statement, the precise procedure to be followed is not clear to Admiralty as it is not known whether Mr. Mackenzie King himself wishes to be shown the communique before it is issued or whether he would be content merely that it should be passed by the Canadian Navy Board. Admiralty

have therefore not taken any steps to bring the draft to the notice of either the Canadian Navy or the Canadian Prime Minister.

BEGINS:

Issued by the President and Prime Minister after consultation with the British Admiralty, United States Navy Department, and Canadian Department of National Defence for Naval Services.

1. August has been another successful month in U-Boat warfare. Owing perhaps to re-armament and other causes, there appear to have been fewer U-Boats at sea than in recent months, and shipping losses have continued to decrease.
2. It is significant that the enemy made virtually no attempt to attack North Atlantic shipping, and opportunities for attacking the U-Boats have been relatively few. Nevertheless, U-Boats have been hunted relentlessly on all stations wherever they have appeared and a heavy toll has been taken of the enemy. In fact more U-Boats have been sunk than merchant ships.
3. Surface and Air forces have both contributed to this satisfactory month's work by the efficiency of their escorts, patrols and offensive operations. Shore-based aircraft have often had to face powerful enemy Air opposition, and carrier-borne aircraft have played a most important part.
4. We are ready to attack the enemy with utmost vigour should he provide the opportunity by resuming a general attack on our shipping with the very large number of U-Boats at his disposal.

ENDS.

President to see

T.O.O. 041521A.

BRIEF OF DISPATCHES

RELEASE FOR JULY

TAB 1. Prime to President #392, 31 July 1943.

Prime suggests statement re sub sinkings be decided on August 12 after joint conference.

TAB 2. President to Prime #336, 1 August 1943.

President agrees to Prime's proposal. (Navy Department, OWI, and Secretary Early notified.)

TAB 3. Prime to President #407, 11 August 1943.

Prime advises he is sending draft of joint statement.

TAB 4. Prime to President #408, 11 August 1943.

Draft of proposed statement of sub sinkings and merchant marine losses.

TAB 5. President to Secretary Early, 13 August 1943.

Directs Secretary Early to release joint statement for Sunday morning papers, 15 August 1943.

TAB 6. PRESS RELEASE, 14 August 1943.

For release to newspapers on Sunday morning, 15 August 1943.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

August 14, 1943

This joint statement by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain MUST BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE until released.

Release in the United States is for ALL REGULAR EDITIONS OF NEWSPAPERS OF SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST FIFTEENTH, 1943.

Use by radio newscasters or others MUST NOT take place before NINE (9:00) O'CLOCK, P.M., E.W.T., AUGUST 14, 1943.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, after consultation with the British Admiralty, the United States Navy Department and the Canadian Department of National Defence for Naval Services, have issued the following monthly statement on the progress of the anti-U-Boat war:

"During the month of July very poor results were obtained by the U-Boats from their widespread effort against the shipping of the Allies. The steady flow of trans-Atlantic supplies on the greatest scale has continued unmolested, and such sinkings as have taken place in distant areas have had but an insignificant effect on the conduct of the war by the Allies. In fact, July is probably our most successful month, because the imports have been high, shipping losses moderate and U-boat sinkings heavy.

"Before the descent upon Sicily an Armada of warships, troop transports, supply ships and landing craft proceeded through Atlantic and Mediterranean waters with scarcely any interference from U-boats. Large reinforcements have also been landed in that Island. Over 2,500 vessels were involved in these operations and the losses are only about 80,000 tons. On the other hand the U-boats which attempted to interfere with these operations suffered severe losses.

"Our offensive operations against Axis submarines continue to progress most favourably in all areas, and during May, June and July we have sunk at sea a total of over 90 U-boats, which represents an average loss of nearly one U-boat a day over the period.

"The decline in the effectiveness of the U-boats is illustrated by the following figures:

"In the first six months of 1943, the number of ships sunk per U-boat operating was only half that in the last six months of 1942 and only a quarter that in the first half of 1942.

"The tonnage of shipping in the service of the United Nations continues to show a considerable net increase. During 1943 new ships completed by the Allies exceed all sinkings from all causes by upwards of three million tons.

"In spite of this very favourable progress in the battle against the U-boat, it must be remembered that the enemy still has large U-boat reserves, completed and under construction. It is necessary, therefore, to prepare for intensification of the battle both at sea and in the shipyards and to use our shipping with utmost economy to strengthen and speed the general offensive of the United Nations. But we can expect continued success only if we do not relax our efforts in any way.

"ROOSEVELT

"CHURCHILL."

Regraded Unclassified

August 13, 1943.

From: The President.
To : Secretary Stephen T. Early.

Please release following joint statement for Sunday morning papers, August 15th. London has been directed to conform.

Quote

Signed

Roosevelt
Churchill

Unquote.

5

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1943.

Admiral Edwards called at 1645 to say that Admiral King had not had an opportunity to read London's #408 but that he, Admiral Edwards, found no fault with it from the standpoint of security. He stated that he thought the whole announcement as written gives too optimistic a picture, as in fact the losses during July were much heavier than those during June. He thinks that it is not work making a serious point about, but would prefer to see the first sentence read:

"The results of the U-boat attacks during July must have been a ~~pretty~~ ^{great} disappointment to the Germans."

During July the
U boats have
not succeeded
in interrupting
the steady flow
of supplies to
Europe on an
ever increasing
scale

WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1943.

2:45 p.m.
Mr. Elmer Davis called to say that
the submarine statement you sent him
seems excellent to him and to Mr.
Roosevelt and that as far as
is concerned it has their
Res

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1943.

2:45 p.m.

Mr. Elmer Davis called to say that the submarine statement you sent him seems excellent to him and to Mr. Nicholas Roosevelt and that as far as the O.W.I. is concerned it has their blessing.

Respectfully,

Rigdon.

**URGENT
SECRET**

Abstract on
11 August 1943

From: London, England
To: The President of the United States

No. 408 Filed: 11/0759Z

Former Naval Person to President personal and most secret Nr. 408. Following is draft referred to in my immediately preceding telegram. Begins:

During July [the U boats have obtained very poor results for their widespread effort against Allied shipping. The steady flow of transatlantic supplies on the greatest scale has continued unmolested, and such sinkings as have taken place in distant areas have had but an insignificant effect on the conduct of the war by the Allies. In fact, July is probably our most successful month because the imports have been high, shipping losses moderate and U boat sinkings heavy.]

Before the descent upon Sicily an armada of warships, troop transports, supply ships and landing craft proceeded through Atlantic and Mediterranean waters with scarcely any interference from U boats. Large reinforcements have also been landed in that island. Over 2,500 vessels were involved in these operations and the losses are only about 80,000 tons. On the other hand, the U boats which attempted to interfere with these operations suffered severe losses.

Our offensive operations against Axis submarines continue to progress most favourably in all areas. And during May, June and July we have sunk at sea a total of over 90 U boats, which represents an average loss of nearly 1 U boat a day over the period.

The decline in the effectiveness of the U boats is illustrated by the following figures. In the first

To be reviewed
SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

URGENT (2) **SECRET**

6 months of 1943 the number of ships sunk per U boat operating was only half that in the last 6 months of 1942 and only a quarter that in the first half of 1942.

The tonnage of shipping in the service of the United Nations continues to show a considerable net increase. During 1943 new ships completed by the Allies exceed all sinkings from all causes upwards of 3,000,000 tons.

In spite of this very favourable progress in the battle against the U boats, it must be remembered that the enemy still has large U boat reserves, completed and under construction. It is necessary therefore to prepare for intensification of the battle both at sea and in the shipyards and to use our shipping with utmost economy to strengthen and speed the general offensive of the United Nations. Continued success can only be expected if there is no relaxation of effort.

No Sig

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

From: London
For: The President

WST

Number 407, 11 August 1943.

Former Naval Person to President. Most secret and personal
Number 407.

I have just arrived after a most swift and agreeable journey on which it has been possible to work continuously. The Warden Family are looking forward keenly to their visit to Hyde Park where we propose to arrive the afternoon of the 12th. Are we right in thinking we should all bring our thinnest clothes?

I send you herewith (see my next telegram) the draft of the monthly announcement about U-boats which I have prepared in concert with the Admiralty. Let us discuss it when we meet and a day or two's delay beyond the 10th in its release is not important.

Warmest greetings to all.

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

From: The President

To : The Prime Minister

No. 336, 1 August 1943.

Your 392. I agree.

Roosevelt

Navy Department, Office of War Information, and Secretary
Early informed of above agreement.

SECRET

Regraded Unclassified

WSE

From: The Prime Minister

To : The President of the United States

No. 392, 31 July 1943.

Former Naval Person to President.

The July canaries to date number 35 making a total of 85 in the 91 days since May 1. Good hunting. Instead of making any announcement as agreed on August 10 let us settle together on the 12th what food our cats are to have.

Prime

SECRET

J
U
M
E

NEW YORK TIMES, Saturday, July 10, 1943.

TO ISSUE MONTHLY REPORT

LONDON, July 10 (AP) -- Great Britain and the United States today outlined a new procedure whereby only approved statements on the U-boat warfare would be issued on the tenth of each month.

A statement issued at 10 Downing Street said President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill were "concerned" at the number of statements being made by public persons and the press on the anti-submarine war, because "the enemy, by piecing together portions of these statements, might glean more information than is desirable about these affairs."

The text of the statement relating to the concern of the Allied leaders said:

The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain have been concerned at the number of statements which are being made from time to time by public persons and the press on both sides of the Atlantic about anti-U-boat war and methods and devices employed in it.

The enemy, by piecing together portions of these statements, may glean more information than is desirable about these affairs. It has therefore been decided that a monthly statement approved by the President and the Prime Minister shall be issued on the tenth of each month, and that apart from specially authorized announcements or statements by the President or Prime Minister, or duly censored accounts of particular incidents and actions, this monthly statement will be the only one to be made on behalf of the British and American Governments.

All departments have been so instructed. It is hoped that the press will go as far as possible and cooperate in keeping the technical discussions of the U-boat warfare within the limits of the official announcements, and generally leave the enemy in his present state of doubt and anxiety upon this most important aspect of our successful warfare at sea.

NEW YORK TIMES, Saturday, July 10, 1943.

JUNE LOSSES TO U-BOAT LOWEST
SINCE WE ENTERED THE CONFLICT

WASHINGTON, July 9 -- Intimations that the United Nations have been winning the war against the submarine were confirmed by a joint statement issued today by the British and United States Governments.

June losses of Allied and Neutral ships by submarine attack, said the report, were the lowest since this country entered the war, sinkings of Axis submarines were substantial, and the main trans-Atlantic convoys are now proceeding practically unmolested.

The statement was as follows:

1. In June the losses of Allied and Neutral merchant ships from submarine attacks were the lowest since the U.S.A. entered the war. The losses from all forms of enemy action were the second lowest recorded since the war between Britain and Germany began.
2. The number of targets offered to the anti-submarine vessels and aircraft of the United Nations was not as great in June as previously, but the sinkings of Axis submarines were substantial and satisfactory.
3. The heavy toll taken of the U-boats in May showed its effect in June in that the main trans-Atlantic convoys were practically unmolested, and the U-boat attacks on our shipping were in widely separated areas. However, every opportunity was taken of attacking U-boats leaving and returning to their bases on the west coast of France.
4. The merchant shipping tonnage of the United Nations has shown a large net increase every month this year. Anti-submarine vessels and aircraft are coming into service in considerable numbers.

ADVANCE RELEASE

ADVANCE RELEASE: To be held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and must NOT BE USED by Press or Radio before 6 p.m., EDT, Friday, July 9, 1943

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

OVI -2173

The following statement of anti-submarine operations for the month of June is issued jointly by the British and United States governments.

1. In June the losses of Allied and Neutral merchant ships from submarine attacks were the lowest since the U.S.A. entered the war. The losses from all forms of enemy action were the second lowest recorded since the war between Britain and Germany began.

2. The number of targets offered to the anti-submarine vessels and aircraft of the United Nations was not as great in June as previously, but the sinkings of Axis submarines were substantial and satisfactory.

3. The heavy toll taken of the U-boats in May showed its effect in June in that the main trans-Atlantic convoys were practically unmolested, and the U-boat attacks on our shipping were in widely separated areas. However, every opportunity was taken of attacking U-boats leaving and returning to their bases on the west coast of France.

4. The merchant shipping tonnage of the United Nations has shown a large net increase every month this year. Anti-submarine vessels and aircraft are coming into service in considerable numbers.

SECRET

From: The President
To: The Prime Minister
No: 309, 8 July 1943

Your No. 352 proposed statement of anti submarine operations for June to be issued on July 10th meets with my approval except the reference to new weapons and devices (paragraph 4).

I am advised that all public reference to new weapons should be avoided.

I will arrange its release here to morning papers on the same date.

ROOSEVELT

SECRET

- 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET

From: The Prime Minister
To: The President
No: 352, 8 July 1943

Following is Admiralty statement referred to in my immediately preceding telegram (No. 351, 8 July 1943):

"The following statement of anti submarine operations for the month of June is issued jointly by the British and United States governments.

"1. In June the losses of Allied and neutral merchant ships from submarine attacks were the lowest since the USA entered the war. The losses from all forms of enemy action were the second lowest recorded since the war between Britain and Germany began.

"2. The number of targets offered to the anti submarine vessels and aircraft of the United Nations was not as great in June as previously, but the sinkings of Axis submarines were substantial and satisfactory.

"3. The heavy toll taken of the U boats in May showed its effect in June in that the main trans-Atlantic convoys were practically unmolested, and the U-boat attacks on our shipping were in widely separated areas. However, every opportunity was taken of attacking U-boats leaving and returning to their bases on the west coast of France.

"4. New weapons and devices have achieved a good measure of success and are constantly being improved.

"5. The merchant shipping tonnage of the United Nations has shown a large net increase every month this year. Anti-submarine vessels and aircraft are coming into service in considerable numbers."

SECRET

- 1 -

Regaded Unlcassified

SECRET

From: The Prime Minister
To: The President

No: 351, 8 July 1943

(PM #352)

1. Your number 305. Admiralty have prepared the following/for the first of our monthly statements on U-boat war. Will you let me know whether your people have any amendments or additions to make, and also, assuming text is agreeable, what arrangements should be made for simultaneous release on Saturday.

2. I also propose a communique to you on the following lines:

"The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain have been concerned at the number of statements which are being made from time to time by public persons and in the press on both sides of the Atlantic, about the anti U-boat war and the methods and devices employed in it. The enemy, by piecing together portions of these statements, may glean more information than is desirable about these affairs. It has therefore been decided that a monthly statement approved by the President and the Prime Minister shall be issued on the 10th of every month, and that, apart from specially authorized announcements or statements by the President or Prime Minister or duly censored accounts of particular incidents and actions, this monthly statement will be the only one to be made on behalf of the British and American governments. All departments have been so instructed. It is hoped that the press will, so far as possible, cooperate in keeping the technical discussions of U-boat warfare within the limits of the official announcements and generally leave the enemy in his present state of doubt and anxiety upon this most important aspect of our successful warfare at sea."

SECRET

- 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

FLASH

Regraded Unclassified