

FLASH

BOX 30.

Folder 5. [000.7] OVERLORD -- Public Statements on \_\_\_\_: May 1-26, 1944.

Communications between FDR and the following persons re public statements on, or just after, D Day landings:

Churchill

Secretary of State Hull

Stalin

General Eisenhower (directed to

General Marshall

War Department)

FROM: PREMIER J. V. STALIN

TO : PRESIDENT F. D. ROOSEVELT

UNNO, 26 May 1944.

I have received your message regarding the appeal to the German people.

Taking into consideration the whole experience of war with the Germans and the character of the Germans, I think that the proposed by you appeal cannot bring positive effect, since it is timed to the moment of the beginning of the landing but not to the moment of sign of serious successes as a result of the landing of Anglo-American troops and as a result of the coming offensive of the Soviet Armies.

We could return to the question of character of the appeal itself when favorable circumstances for such an appeal arrive.

Sent to the PRESIDENT at Shangri-La as  
RED 36, 27/2015Z.

TOP-SECRET

May 27, 1944

TOP SECRET

From: The President

To : Marshal Stalin

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

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

ROOSEVELT

TOP-SECRET

~~TOP-SECRET~~  
TOP SECRET

May 27, 1944

From: The President  
To : The Prime Minister  
No. : 543

Your 680. In view of your comments on my 541 and the attitude of your Cabinet, I am in agreement with you that a statement along the lines suggested by me is not necessary and I shall therefore not make any statement at that time to the German people.

I am informing U.J. of this decision.

Conditions here will not permit of my visiting the U.K. shortly after D-day, and after consultation with my Joint Chiefs of Staff I do not believe that a full staff meeting at that time is necessary.

Small staff conversations can and will be conducted immediately after the attack is launched.

At a later date after our forces are established on the Continent it does appear necessary to have a full Staff meeting to decide upon our future moves, and I hope and expect that it will then be possible for me to be present.

I join you in a hope that the present magnificent performance of our Forces in Italy will continue and inflict a major disaster upon the enemy. Things look well at this moment.

ROOSEVELT

TOP-SECRET

*This has been answered*  
*File*  
*WAL*

TOP SECRET

From: U S Military Attache, London, England

To: The President of the United States

No: 680 Filed: 25/NFT

Prime Minister to President Roosevelt TOP  
SECRET and personal no 680.

I brought your No. 541 before the Cabinet yesterday, Curtin and Smuts also being present. Considerable concern was expressed at the tone of friendship shown to the Germans at this moment when the troops are about to engage. There was a feeling that the message, if sent before the battle is won, might be distorted by the enemy into a sort of peace appeal. If there were nothing between us except that the Germans have an evil philosophy, there would be little ground for the war going on. I think myself that the message might conceivably be taken as a peace feeler, and that the Germans might reply that they accepted your note as a basis for further discussion.

In truth there is much more between them and us than a philosophy. Nearly all Europe cries for vengeance against brutal tyranny. At Teheran my

TOP SECRET

# TOP SECRET

suggestion for the isolation of Prussia was considered far too modest by you and U.J. Everybody expects complete forcible disarmament of Germany, possibly extending to civil aviation, to be made and maintained. There are other very grave questions open. For instance, how are the Poles going to be compensated if they do not get East Prussia and certain territories up to the line of the Oder in return for the Curzon Line which the Russians will certainly demand?

I do not know what U.J. will say about your declaration, but we here earnestly hope you will not make it in its present form and, above all, at this present time. There was also a feeling that a document so grave addressed to the enemy, should emanate from the three principal Allies. I may add that nothing of this document would get down to the German pillboxes and front line in time to affect the fighting troops.

The battle is going well in Italy and Alexander has high hopes. Up to the present, so far from trying to bolt to the northwards, Hitler has been bringing down at least three more divisions, one from Istria and two from the north of Rome. Even the Hermann Goering Division which is in Hitlers Special General Reserve may be drawn in. All our Allied troops are fighting magnificently and everywhere the enemy has been pressed

# TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

back. I think myself tomorrow and the day after may be very important days.

I go every weekend to see the armies preparing here and I have visited some of your finest divisions. Even more striking are all the extraordinary structures and mass of craft already prepared. The weather is a great gamble but otherwise I am full of hope.

All this brings me to my great hope, which is that you will yourself be able to come over. It could not now I suppose be till after D Day as your movement would be taken as heralding it. But if you could start as soon as the signal has been given, the very greatest advantages might be derived from our close talks about all matters including any address to the Commons by you. This is also becoming a practical necessity in respect of the Chiefs of Staff. We have the whole Far Eastern Campaign to discuss and our execution of our promise to help in it to the very utmost of our strength. We need you here so much as the great battle will be of a profound and heart-shaking character, not by any means only in its opening phase. The King will of course send you a formal invitation at any moment that you let me know.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

There is a very good place in London which would give you perfect safety and comfort. I greatly desire to see you again. It is six months since we met.

No Sig.

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

*File*

May 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL LEAHY:

Reference Eisenhower's SCAF 33 in which he gives the text of his proposed broadcast; and to SCAF 35 which contains a proclamation to the French people to be posted in captured territory and dropped in leaflet form.

Eisenhower did not ask specifically for approval of the broadcast merely stating that he proposed to broadcast it. He did, however, state that early approval of the proclamation was urgently required. Eisenhower's messages are addressed to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Before we take any action on the proclamation I suggest that you obtain the President's reaction. I think the proclamation as proposed by Eisenhower is all right.

*[Signature]*  
Chief of Staff.



**TOP SECRET**

**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

**INCOMING MESSAGE**

TOP SECRET

PRIORITY

**SECRET**

**From:** Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces  
London, England

**To:** War Department

**NR:** S 52384

23 May 1944

From Unity to AGWAR, S 52384, TOPSEC for the Joint Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower cite SHPWD reference your W 39395 of 20th May.

Detailed propaganda and publicity guidance coordinated with PWE and OWI London and schedules D Day broadcast and leaflets due for despatch Saturday next 27th May. For security reasons we are planning not to send you in advance any texts or translations other than the communique already furnished and statement by Supreme Commander as will be contained in SCAF number 33.

We are arranging special D Day broadcast to Europe including communique and statements by Supreme Commander. Also probable are statements by King of Norway, Queen of Netherlands, Belgian Prime Minister, Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and, if possible, DeGaulle. This broadcast should be monitored by OWI New York and AFHQ Algiers and thus provide them with authorized texts and official translations of all D Day statements to Europe.

We do not expect D Day statement by President or

CM-IN-17<sup>6</sup>18 (23 May 44)

**ACTION F-2**

TOP SECRET

**SECRET**

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**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

**INCOMING MESSAGE**

TOP SECRET

PRIORITY

**TOP  
SECRET**

-page 2-

**From:** Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces  
London, England

**NR:** 3 52384

23 May 1944

Prime Minister addressed to European peoples. We assume that if they speak, their remarks will be addressed to the troops and to home public.

Distinct from D Day broadcast to Europe we plan simultaneous D Day broadcast in English to cover all British and American broadcasting stations. Detailed schedules for this will also be despatched by Saturday.

No Sig

**ACTION:** Joint Chiefs of Staff

**INFO :** Gen Arnold  
OPD  
Gen Bissell  
Adm. King  
Col. Park  
Log

CM-IN-17618 (23 May 44) 2258Z jb

TOP SECRET

14

**SECRET**

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TOP-SECRET

TOP SECRET  
PRIORITY

23 May 1944

C O P Y

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

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

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

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

TOP-SECRET

TOP-SECRET

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

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

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

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

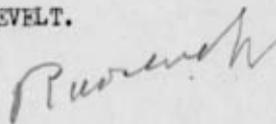
Every German knows this in his heart. Germany and Japan have made a terrible and disastrous mistake. Germany and Japan must atone reasonably for the wanton destruction of lives and property which they have committed; and they must give up an imposed philosophy the falsity of which by now must be very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

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

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

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

ROOSEVELT.



TOP-SECRET

BLUE 8

22 May 1944

(Hyde Park to Map Room)

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR ADMIRAL LEAHY.

Referring to the Prime Minister's #679 (RED 28). Please prepare wire to Stalin adding "Churchill has agreed to follow up with a similar message along the same lines."

RECD 222255Z.

**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

**INCOMING MESSAGE**

PRIORITY

**TOP SECRET**

*For the file  
use 7 WS  
Ad Gen  
has shown  
President  
VP*

From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
London, England

To : War Department

Nr : S 52420

22nd May 1944.

S 52420 TOPSEC to AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff  
signed Eisenhower. This is SCAF number 33.

SAC proposes broadcasting the following statement as soon as the D day communique is released. Arrange in sequence by paragraph numbers.

1. People of Western Europe.
2. A landing was made this morning on the coast of France by troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force. This landing is part of the concerted United Nations plan for the liberation of Europe, made in conjunction with our great Russian Allies.
3. I have this message for all of you. Although the initial assault may not have been made in your own country, the hour of your liberation is approaching.
4. All patriots, men and women, young and old, have a part to play in the achievement of final victory. To members of resistance movements I say, 'Follow the instructions you have received.' To patriots who are not members of organized resistance groups, I say, "Continue your passive resistance, but do not needlessly endanger your lives until I give you the signal to rise and strike the enemy. The day will come when I shall need your united strength."

CM-IN-18403

(24 May 44)

TOP SECRET

*# whether led by nationals or outside leaders*

*310 Overlord*

**SECRET**

COPY No.

*12*

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SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

TOP  
SECRET

Page 2.

From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
London, England  
Nr : S 52420 22nd May 1944.

until that day, I call on you for the hard task of discipline and restraint.

5. Citizens of France.

6. I am proud to have again under my command the gallant forces of France. Fighting beside their American and British comrades, they will play a worthy part in the liberation of their homeland. *allies*

7. Because the initial landing has been made on the soil of your country, I repeat to you with even greater emphasis my message to the peoples of other occupied countries in Western Europe. Follow the instructions of your leaders. A premature uprising of all Frenchmen may prevent you from being of maximum help to your country in the critical hour. Be patient. Prepare.

8. As Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, there is imposed on me the duty and responsibility of taking all measures necessary to the prosecution of the War. Prompt and willing obedience to the orders that I shall issue is essential.

9. Effective civil administration of France must be provided by Frenchmen. All persons must continue in their present duties unless otherwise instructed. Those who have made common cause with the enemy and so betrayed their country will be removed. As France is liberated from her oppressors,

CM-IN-18403

(24 May 44)

TOP SECRET

SECRET

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SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Page 3.

From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
London, England  
Nr : S 52420 22nd May 1944.

you yourselves will choose your representatives, and the government under which you wish to live.

10. In the course of this campaign for the final defeat of the enemy you may sustain further loss and damage. Tragic though they may be, they are part of the price of victory. I assure you that I shall do all in my power to mitigate your hardships. I know that I can count on your steadfastness now, *no less than in the past. The heroic deeds of Frenchmen who have continued their struggle against the Nazis and their Vichy*

11. This landing is but the opening phase of the campaign in Western Europe. Great battles lie ahead. I call upon all who love freedom to stand with us. Keep your faith staunch-our arms are resolute-together we shall achieve victory.

No Sig.

\* Omissions being serviced.

*satellites, in France and throughout the French Empire, have been an example and an inspiration to all of us.*

ACTION: CCS

INFO : Gen Arnold  
Gen Handy  
Gen Bissell  
Adm. King  
Col. Park  
C of S

GM-IN-18403

(24 May 44)

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1s

TOP SECRET

SECRET

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SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WTS

**INCOMING MESSAGE**

TOP SECRET

PRIORITY

**TOP SECRET**

From: CG Strategic Air Forces in Europe, London, England

To: War Department

No. S 52442

24 May 1944

S 52442 TOPSEC AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower. This is SCAF 35.

In addition to a statement to be made to all of the peoples of the occupied countries of North West Europe it is proposed to publish a proclamation to the French people to be posted in captured territory and to be dropped in leaflet form over France on D plus 1 or D plus 2. The Supreme Commander would not broadcast this text. The proclamation is as follows:

"Citizens of France: The Day of Liberation has dawned. Your comrades in arms are on French soil. I am proud to have under my command the gallant forces of France who have so long trained and waited for this day when they can take part in the liberation of their home country. United we come to settle on the battlefield the war you have continued heroically through years of stubborn resistance. We shall destroy the Nazi Tyranny root and branch so that the peoples of Europe may have a new birth of freedom. As Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, there is imposed on me the duty and responsibility of taking all measures essential to the prosecution of the War prompt obedience to such orders as I may issue is necessary. All persons must continue in the performance of their present duties unless otherwise instructed. Those who have made common cause with the enemy and so betrayed their country will be removed.

CM-IN-18564 (25 May 44)

TOP SECRET

310 Overland

SECRET

COPY No.

*111 Park*

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

**TOP SECRET**  
**INCOMING MESSAGE**

**PRIORITY**

Page 2

**TOP  
SECRET**

From: CG Strategic Air Forces in Europe, London, England

No. S 52442

24 May 1944

It will be for the French people to provide their own Civil Administration and to safeguard my troops by the effective maintenance of law and order. Members of the French Military Mission attached to me will furnish assistance to this end. The valour and extreme sacrifice of the millions who have fought under the banner of resistance have helped and will continue to help the success of our arms. The presence of the enemy among you has made tragically necessary the aerial bombardment and military and naval operations which have caused you loss and suffering. This you have accepted courageously in the heroic tradition of France, as part of the inevitable price we all must pay to attain our goal which is our freedom. Every resource will be required for the expulsion of the enemy from your country. Battle may inflict on you further deprivation. You will realize that munitions of war must come first but every endeavor will be made to bring to you food, medical supplies and other assistance that you need so sorely. I rely on your assistance in the final crushing of Hitlerite Germany and the reestablishment of the historic French liberties. When victory is won and France is liberated from her oppressors the French people will be free to choose at the earliest possible moment under democratic methods and conditions the government under which they wish to live. The enemy will fight with the courage of despair. He will neglect no measure, however ruthless, which he thinks may delay our progress. But our cause is just, our armies are strong. With our valiant Russian Allies from the East, we shall march to certain victory. Signed Dwight D Eisenhower, General Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force"

CM-IN-18564 (25 May 44)

**TOP SECRET**

11

**SECRET**

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**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

**INCOMING MESSAGE**

~~TOP SECRET~~

PRIORITY

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**TOP  
SECRET**

From: CG Strategic Air Forces in Europe, London, England

No. S 52442

24 May 1944

Because of necessity for translation and printing early approval is urgently required.

No Sig.

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen Arnold  
Gen Handy  
Gen Bissell  
Adm King  
Col Park  
C of S

CM-IN-18564 (25 May 44) 0202Z jb

TOP SECRET

11

**SECRET**

COPY No.

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25M

TOP SECRET

CORRECTED COPY

From: London, England  
To: The President of the United States  
No: 679, 22nd May 1944  
Prime Minister to President Roosevelt personal  
and TOP SECRET.

Your number 541. I will bring this matter before the Cabinet today Monday. Personally I think it would be best you should speak for all three of us. I can easily do a follow-up on some of the points later on. But the main principle of the note we should strike towards Germany seems to require considerable thought. Also the time of any such statement should have relation to the success or otherwise of our operation.

No Sig

*omitted in original  
sent - 22 1845Z*

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

18 May 1944

From: The President  
To : The Prime Minister  
No : 541

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. As amended by Admiral Leahy. (~~The~~ = deleted; the = added)

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

"Every German knows this in his heart. Germany and Japan have made a terrible and disastrous mistake. Germany and Japan must atone reasonably for the wanton destruction of lives and property which they have committed; and they must give up ~~the false philosophy an~~ imposed philosophy the falsity of<sup>1</sup> which by now must be very clear to them.

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

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

ROOSEVELT

1. As amended from original draft by Admiral Leahy.  
(~~The~~ = deleted; the = added)

RED 19 (Hyde Park to Map Room)

19 May 1944

FROM ADMIRAL LEAHY FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Your message to Prime suggesting a statement to the German people is cleared by Mr. Dunn of the State Department and has been sent exactly as approved by you yesterday.

Mr. Hull is confined to his apartment with a slight cold.

SENT 191955Z.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*file*

May 18, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

What do you think?

F. D. R.

Copy of proposed message also  
sent to Admiral Leahy.

*Will be handled by*

*File*

*[Signature]*

May 18, 1944.

TO: THE PRIME MINISTER

FROM: THE PRESIDENT

Instead of a tripartite statement to be issued by the U. S., U.K. and Soviet Governments, and in place of a Message to the Congress, what would you think of a statement by me alone along these lines, to be issued after D DAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROOSEVELT

The intent of this message would be to state to the American people for their information and that of the people in Europe the policies and attitudes of the United States toward the future development of government and free institutions in Europe as a result of the collapse of the Nazi system.

I would be very interested to know whether you find that this material would be useful either for the writing up of a message to Congress or perhaps for a direct address to the American people at the time of the invasion.

Attachment:

Staff message  
to Congress.

5-15-44

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Referring again to the memorandum I sent you just before you returned to Washington, enclosing a draft of a proposed tripartite statement to be issued by the U. S., U. K., and Soviet Governments with regard to the attitude and policies of those Governments towards the liberated areas, I am attaching hereto a draft statement on Europe which I thought might well be used as material for the issuance of a message to Congress, and thus to the American people, to be timed about the opening of the invasion of the European continent by our forces.

The intent of this message would be to state to the American people for their information and that of the people in Europe the policies and attitudes of the United States toward the future development of government and free institutions in Europe as a result of the defeat of the Nazi system.

I would be very interested to know whether you find that this material would be useful either for the drawing up of a message to Congress or perhaps for a radio address to the American people at the time of the invasion.

Attachment:

Draft message  
to Congress.

DRAFT MESSAGE TO CONGRESS FOR PRESENTATION  
AT THE TIME OF INVASION

The armed forces of the United Nations have landed on the shores of Western Europe. On the land, from the waters and from the air the armies of the United States, of Great Britain and of their allies are proceeding in force. To the East the great Soviet drive which has swept all the way from Stalingrad continues relentlessly and in Italy the Allies press forward. From every side the armed might of free peoples closes in for victory.

Today the armed forces of the United States backed by all the power and spirit and productivity of this country are joined with the forces of our allies to strike the blow for which the world has been waiting. The predatory powers of Europe and Asia, having first corrupted their own people and enslaved their neighbors, have sought to extend their empires to the Americas. Today the Nazis are reaping what they have sown. Tomorrow will be the turn of Japan.

As our armies move onto the continent of Europe let us remember that behind the Nazi battlelines we will find allies and friends. Oppressed and silenced for years the peoples of Europe have not been conquered. We bring arms to place in their hands. They will stand with us shoulder to shoulder. We will help them to free Europe, and thus to free ourselves from the Nazi menace, and it is to them we look to rebuild a Europe worthy of its great traditions.

Europe has given a great light to all the world, the light of human freedom. The legacy and the inheritance of Europe have been an unending effort toward greater liberty - political, religious, and intellectual; and toward greater justice - social and economic. The forces which built the United States in large measure came from this endless toiling and struggling in search of greater liberty and more certain justice.

Eleven years ago when the Nazi leaders seized Germany, they turned back the clock and undertook the subjection of all peoples who had been free. Now the Nazi system is itself on the eve of destruction. The

day

day has come when each and all among right-minded men and women will have an opportunity to join the fight for freedom and to take part in the work of reconstruction.

Abraham Lincoln taught long ago that no man is good enough to be another man's master. Our times are teaching us that no man, no small group of men, is strong enough to be secure and to prosper alone. We are marching together now, and we must work together later, shoulder to shoulder. There is need for stout hearts and free minds among all peoples everywhere for victory in this supreme battle, and for re-creating a Europe and a world regulated by justice, filled with greater opportunity, and inspired with a higher hope.

The Government and people of the United States believe that each liberated country is entitled to a system or regime of its own choosing. We desire that the choice shall be made in each case by the people, and not by small groups who may seek to dominate the people. We believe that the peoples of Europe have no desire to deny their past, but neither are they bound to it or by it. We are convinced that they look forward to a growing development of social justice and material prosperity, consistent with the great light of individual freedom of mind and spirit.

The Governments of the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain have made no promises to Germany or to the German people. We could not if we would. When a nation follows false leaders, and accepts teachings of evil, no power on earth can free its people from the consequences of their own acts. This is not said in malice or with thought of vengeance. As men sow so must they reap. Every German knows this in his heart. He knows there must be reparation for the wanton destruction by the German Army of lives and property in occupied countries. He knows that, so far as he can, the wrongs done to millions of innocent people must be righted, and that even then no reparation can be made for the uncounted hours of pain - or to the millions of dead, known and unknown. Yet the German people must be accorded justice and be given opportunity to live. By their acts they must establish their capacity again to become law-abiding members of the family of nations,

and

and must demonstrate that they will not again be led or misled into efforts to conquer. They should have and they will have opportunity to prove to the world that they can and will abide by the laws of civilization, and, when this is done, to enter the fellowship of nations united for peace. There is no thought among us that they shall be exterminated or enslaved as they have sought to exterminate or enslave so many other peoples. And we shall not forget those Germans who have continuously risked their lives and everything they hold dear to try to keep the spark of freedom still alight.

The re-creation of Europe must be Europe's task, and Europe's achievement. The bringing about of freedom from fear and freedom from want must be in great measure the work of her peoples. We can make the opportunity, and we will so far as practicable assist. We Americans hope for a world organization at once just and strong, so that all peoples who have the will to do so may attain the best fruits of their capacity. They will share those with us by contributing to the life of the world as they have done in the past. We in like manner can and will share with them.

Gentlemen, we are all deeply conscious of the significance of this great moment in our history. We are proud of the men of our armed forces who are carrying our flag into the enemy's fortress. We have all worked together to make this day possible - The Congress, the Executive branch, the armed forces and the vast productive systems of farm, mine and factory behind the fighting men. The Congress has exercised the great powers granted to it in our Constitution to raise and support these forces on land, on the sea and in the air. As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States I have endeavored to perform my duty with the same profound sense of the great responsibility involved. We represent and act for the people of this our country. The men who bear arms are valiant and well prepared. They know well that upon the outcome of their fierce ordeal hangs the whole future of their people and their country. Each of us, in the factories, on the farms, in the halls of the Congress and in the offices of government throughout the land, will work without stint to help them speed the day to which we all look confidently - the day of victory.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1944

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Brown in the Secretary of State's office called to inquire about a special telegram sent over on May 4th - for your approval - concerning a tripartite political statement to the peoples of Europe. They are anxious to know if you have taken any action on same.

GGT

Grace —

I understand from Admiral Leahy's office that above is in the map room & has not been acted on by the President —

GGT



THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET.

May 4, 1944

White 177

SPECIAL TELEGRAM FOR THE PRESIDENT - NO. 6

There follows for your consideration a draft statement to the peoples of Europe to be issued in the name of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union prior to the invasion of Europe, if from a military point of view you and your military advisers consider it feasible.

It is believed that a statement of this character would have a very salutary effect in indicating to the peoples of Europe the general lines of the policy of the three principal Allies and would go far towards counteracting any uneasiness which the peoples of Europe and their representatives abroad may have had in regard to the intentions of the great powers towards the countries of Europe. By laying down in agreement with the British and the Russians the general principles which will govern our policies in Europe, a statement of this character would greatly facilitate the practical implementation of Allied policy in respect of individual countries of Europe.

In view of the urgency of the matter, I <sup>✓</sup> venture to suggest that, if you approve the draft in its present form or after making any changes which you desire, you send it personally to Marshal Stalin and Mr. Churchill for their consideration and approval.

sent as White 177 04/2220 (Part 1) and 04/22352 (Part 2)

also added separate note that there would not be regular state dept daily telegram today.

SECRET

May 4, 1944

TRIPARTITE POLITICAL STATEMENT  
TO THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE

The armies of the United Nations are soon to begin the final operation for the defeat of the Nazi effort to impose the German will upon the world. Attacking on the west, the south and the east, they will be acting in alliance and concert with the representatives of the oppressed peoples of Europe. They will not halt this operation until the Nazi government and all its forces, military and irregular, have ceased to resist and the Nazi system has been completely destroyed.

The United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union do not intend to dictate the organization of Europe nor to dominate its life. They propose that Europe will enter again into the great inheritance of her history which the Nazis have sought in vain to defile and to destroy. Their hope is to see peaceful states in Europe and throughout the world in friendly association one with another assuming their rightful places in the world organization of nations.

They desire that the peoples of these nations shall freely choose and freely establish the social and political systems under which they wish to live. Having agreed to respect the rights of peoples to live under institutions of their own choice and of individuals to seek freedom, the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union will direct their actions and policies toward safeguarding full exercise of your civil, political and religious liberties. They will endeavor to assist you so far as practicable in laying a foundation of social and economic progress based on individual liberties.

You, the peoples of the European nations, have desired a society which shall provide more opportunity for yourselves and your children to attain greater freedom, greater justice and greater prosperity. This opportunity shall be yours. For all the undefeated though overpowered peoples of Europe this is the time of hope.

Map Room File  
WR

May 1, 1944.

TOP-SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL MARSHALL.

Replying to your memorandum of 29 April, it does not appear practicable at this time to make a definite decision as to the advisability of my making an announcement about OVERLORD on or immediately after "D" day.

If it should appear desirable to make such an announcement it would be as follows:

"A landing on the coast of France has been made in full force by a combined American-British army under the command of General Eisenhower.

"Speaking for America, I send heartfelt wishes for good fortune to each and every one of our heroic soldiers and sailors, and we do not forget our British <sup>and Canadian</sup> comrades who are fighting shoulder to shoulder with us, or our Russian allies on the Eastern front.

"All of us together working in unison will bring final defeat to the Nazi destroyers of world peace together with their duped satellites."

End quote. I will talk with you about this next week.

F. D. R.

SECRET

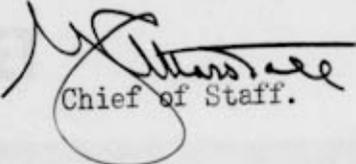
WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

29 April 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

In the attached message General Eisenhower raises the question whether you will make an announcement about OVERLORD on or after D day. Your desires in the matter are requested.

From the purely military viewpoint, I doubt if it could have any effect upon the success of the landing in view of the extent and rigidity of German control over the lodgment area. I can see no objection to such a broadcast from the military standpoint. There is the question of security in the preparation of its recording, if it is to be recorded, but I believe this can be handled without difficulty.

  
Chief of Staff.

Incl.

SECRET

SECRET

WAF  
P.

FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER

TO GENERAL MARSHALL

April 28, 1944

In the event the President wishes to make an announcement about OVERLORD, on or after D day, it would be very helpful to us if we could see the draft at the earliest possible moment. If such an announcement is to be made, I recommend completing all details in connection with it at a very early date.

SECRET

FLASH