

● PSF

Safe! William C. Bullitt

CONTINUED

JT

GRAY

PARIS

Dated June 12, 1940

Rec'd 5:08 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

RUSH

1157, June 12, 11 a.m.

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~ FOR THE PRESIDENT.

I was and am deeply grateful for your telegram  
triple priority 648, June 11, 9 p.m.

I remember an evening with you in the White House  
about two years and a half ago when I said to you that  
I felt sure there would be war while I was Ambassador  
in Paris and that the Germans probably would reach Paris  
and that since there would be danger that the Department  
of State would wish to order me to leave Paris and that  
I would not leave and therefore would prefer not to  
receive such an order since I should have to disobey it.  
You said you would see to it that I should not receive  
such order and I am grateful to you for remembering and  
handling this matter just the way you have handled it.

As I said to you when you telephoned me the night  
of Sunday the 9th my deepest personal reason for staying

in

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

-2- #1157, June 12, 11 a.m., from Paris

in Paris is that whatever I have as character, good or bad, is based on the fact that since the age of four I have never run away from anything however painful or dangerous when I thought it was my duty to take a stand. If I should leave Paris now I would be no longer myself.

(END SECTION ONE)

BULLITT

CSB



JR

GRAY

Paris

Dated June 11, 1940

Rec'd 2:33 p.m., 12th.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH.

1157, June 11 (SECTION TWO)

I am certain it is my duty to stay here.

This Embassy is the only official organization still functioning in the City of Paris except the Headquarters of the military forces, Governor and the Prefecture of Police.

Thousands of people of all nationalities, French, Canadian, English, Belgian, Rumanian and even Italian are turning to us in despair for advice and comfort. The fact that I am here is a strong element in preventing a fatal panic.

Furthermore, a moment will come soon when I hope to be of even more use. The military Governor of Paris, General Hering, has just repeated to me the request previously made by Reynaud, Mandel and Langeron, the Prefect of Police.

BULLITT

TFV:CSB

JT

GRAY

PARIS

Dated June 12, 1940. .

Rec'd 5:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH

1157, June 12, 11 a.m. (SECTION THREE)

The Military Governor, with his army, will at a given moment leave Paris in retreat. He will leave in Paris General Dentz as Commander of the Paris region. Owing to danger of fires and mobs, they have decided to leave the police and the firemen of the city at their posts until the Germans shall have occupied the city fully. They have stated to me that at a given moment -- not far off -- they will ask me in writing, as representative of the diplomatic corps in Paris, to act as guardian of the civil authority of this community during the transition from French Government to German military occupation, and to treat with the General commanding the German forces for the orderly occupation of the city.

I propose therefore at the appropriate moment to have broadcast a radio message stating that at a given time an automobile of the American Embassy in Paris

properly

-2- #1157, June 12, 11 a.m. (SEC THREE) from Paris

properly marked will move slowly along the road to  
Chantilly to the German line.

BULLITT

CSB

JR

GRAY

Paris

Dated June 12, 1940

Rec'd 11:55 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH.

1157, June 12

(SECTION FOUR)

I propose to send my Military Attache and my Naval Attache to the German General commanding the forces in the Paris area to explain the situation and return with the suggestions of the German command as to methods of facilitating the orderly transition of government. I believe that this procedure may save thousands of lives and I hope that you will not object to it.

The French are still holding the line of the Nonette in my garden at Chantilly but the Germans have crossed the little river near Senlis and the position is difficult. The French all along the line are fighting with the same incredible courage in the face of four times their numbers. The Germans have crossed the Seine in force and are approaching Evreux.

There was a little shooting in the streets of Paris last night but not much.

BULLITT

KLP



JT

GRAY

PARIS

Dated June 11, 1940

Rec'd 3:56 p.m., 12th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH

1157, June 11, (SECTION FIVE)

In conclusion I am absolutely confident of the ability of Tony Biddle to handle the contacts with the French Government which is dispersed throughout Touraine. I have sent him a strong staff and he has promised me to make H. Freeman Matthews, who is one of the ablest and finest foreign service officers, his chief adviser.

I have said nothing in this cable about the tradition that the American Ambassador does not leave Paris. Remember Gouverneur Morris and his wooden leg in the terror, Washburne in the Commune, Herrick. It will mean something always to the French and the Foreign Service to remember that we do not leave though others do.

FOLLOWING IN FRENCH (J'y suis. J'y retiens) END  
FRENCH.

Love to you all.

(END MESSAGE)

BULLITT

LMS:NPL



AC

GRAY

Bern

Dated June 13, 1940

Rec'd 10:50 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

TRIPLE PRIORITY

65, June 13, 2 p.m.

Following message telephoned by Ambassador Bullitt at 11:30 a.m. June 13 with the request that it be transmitted immediately to the Embassy in Berlin for immediate communication to the German Government.

"Paris has been declared an open city. General Hering, military commander of Paris district, is withdrawing his army which has been defending Paris. All possible measures are being taken to assure the security of life and property in the city. The gendarmerie and police are remaining and the firemen also remaining to prevent fires. General Dentz is remaining as commander of the Paris area but without any troops simply with the gendarmerie and the police.

Ambassador Bullitt is remaining in Paris with the Military and Naval Attaches of the Embassy, the Counselor of Embassy and six Secretaries of Embassy  
as the

- 2 - #65, June 13, 2 p.m. from Bern

as the representative of the diplomatic corps. Mr. Bullitt hopes to be of any assistance possible in seeing to it that the transfer of the Government of the city takes place without loss of human life. This entire communication is made at the personal request of General Dentz."

I have telephoned the foregoing to Embassy at Berlin.

In addition to transmitting this message to the American Embassy at Berlin Mr. Bullitt requested that it be repeated to the Department with an explanation that this action replaces the action indicated that he might take in a long telegram to the President yesterday.

Mr. Bullitt said that there was no more radio or telephone communication with the United States.

He also particularly requested that the Department should be informed that after the occupation of the city there will be enough food in the city to keep the population now estimated by him at two million people alive for two weeks and that after that there will be nothing whatsoever to eat unless something is done about it.

HARRISON

CSB

HOTCHKISS CAIRO

OPNAV

PPPPPPPP

21 DECEMBER 1941

1429/21

SMITH

REISS

192300 CR 0177

~~SECRET~~

FOLLOWING ~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~ FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT-  
"THE BRITISH ARE HANDLING THE SITUATION HERE BETTER THAN WAS  
INDICATED BY THE REPORTS RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE MY DEPARTURE.  
I BELIEVE THAT LITTLETON AUCHINLECK AND THE REST ARE DOING AS GOOD A  
JOB AS CAN BE EXPECTED WITH THE INADEQUATE MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL  
AGAINST A DETERMINED ENEMY LED BY A SOLDIER OF GENIUS ROMEL. ROMEL  
HAS AGAIN ESCAPED AN EXCELLENT TRAP SET FOR HIM BUT THERE ARE AT  
THIS MOMENT NOT MORE THAN 30 GERMAN TANKS IN CONDITION TO FIGHT. IN  
ADDITION ROMEL HAS APPROXIMATELY 30 ITALIAN TANKS AND A NUMBER OF  
ARMoured VEHICLES AND APPROXIMATELY 60,000 INFANTRY. ROMEL'S FORCES  
ARE ALL ON THIS SIDE OF BENGAZI EXCEPT ONE ITALIAN DIVISION IN  
TRIPOLI WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE LOW IN HEALTH AND MORALE. IF THE  
BRITISH CAN GET TO BENGAZI AS THEY EXPECT THEY HOPE TO BE ABLE TO  
PUSH ON TO TRIPOLI AND THE TUNISIAN FRONTIER, BUT IT IS 1450 MILES  
BY THE ONLY ROAD FROM THE BRITISH BASE IN CAIRO TO THE FRONTIER OF  
TUNISIA. 27 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS ARE USED BY THE  
SOLDIERS OF AUCHINLECK'S ARMY AND A BRIGADE OF FREE FRENCH FROM SYRIA  
IS ABOUT TO BE ADDED...CONTINUED

DISTRIBUTION ~~REX~~.....ACTION  
PRES US

SEALED SECRET FILE

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED



**HOTCHKISS, CAIRO**

**OPNAV**

**PPPP**

**DEC. 21, 1941.**

**SMITH/PITKIN**

~~**SECRET**~~

**R.V.ROBINSON**

**192355 (CONTINUED)**

**PART 2- 192315 CR #178  
PART 3- 192335 CR #178  
PART 4- 192345 CR #186**

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT-  
AS YOU ARE AWARE, BUT FEW PERSONS IN WASHINGTON REALIZE, THE FIGHTING  
IN THIS AREA IS BEING CARRIED ON BY COMPARATIVELY TINY FIGHTING FORCES.  
THEREFORE A SLIGHT INCREASE OR DIMINUTION IN THE FORCE HERE MAKES THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEFEAT AND VICTORY. IN VIEW OF THE VITAL IMPORTANCE  
OF NORTH AFRICA FOR AN ULTIMATE ATTACK ON ITALY AND GERMANY, AND IN  
VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A BRITISH ARMY ON THE EASTERN BORDER  
OF TUNISIA RATHER THAN A GERMAN ARMY, AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT  
THE ENEMY IS NOW ON THE RUN I BELIEVE THAT (1) IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO  
WITHDRAW FORCES OF ANY KIND FROM THIS AREA NOW. (2) THAT THE FORCES  
NOW HERE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN ANY WAY THAT WILL NOT REDUCE FORCES  
WHICH ARE VITALLY NEEDED AT OTHER POINTS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE  
ESTABLISHED PROGRAM FOR DELIVERIES HERE OF AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT,  
.35 AND .50 AMMUNITION, 250-LB BOMBS AND 500-LB BOMBS AND MOTOR TRANS-  
PORT SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIVERSION TO OTHER  
AREAS. IT IS VITAL THAT THE PROGRAM FOR DELIVERY OF KITTY-HAWK SP-45'S,  
BOSTONS, A-25 AND BALTIMORES MARTIN BOMBERS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.  
IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE PROJECTS WHICH WERE STARTED BY GENERAL  
BRETT SHOULD BE CARRIED THROUGH. IN VIEW OF SERIOUS GERMAN ATTEMPTS  
TO REINFORCE THIS THEATRE OF WAR NOTABLY BY THE TRANSFER OF THE ENTIRE  
2ND GERMAN AIR CORPS FROM THE MOSCOW FRONT TO ITALY AND FLIGHTS OF  
PLANES AND OF THIS AIR CORPS TO LIBYA, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE SUCCESS**

**(CONTINUED ON  
SHEET 2)**

~~**SECRET**~~

**REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED**

**HOTCHKISS CAIRO**

**PPPP**

**OPNAV**

**DEC 21, 1941.**

**ROBINSON**

~~**SECRET**~~

**192366 (CONTINUED) PARTS 2, 3 & 4 - SHEET 2.**

~~**SECRET**~~

**OF THE BRITISH PLANS TO PUSH ON TO THE FRONTIER OF TUNISIA DEPENDS ON THE PROMPT IMPROVEMENT OF BRITISH TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS. THE BRITISH ARE SHOCKINGLY SHORT OF COMPETENT TRUCK-DRIVERS. THEIR SYSTEM OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN STRETCHED TO THE BREAKING POINT. AS AN EXAMPLE, WHEN I ATTENDED WITH LITTLETON AND AUCHINLEK A MEETING OF ALL THE STAFFS YESTERDAY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFO, NO NEWS HAD COME FOR 24 HOURS FROM THE FIGHTING FRONT. LYTTLETON, AUCHINLEK, AND AIR MARSHAL TEDDER HAVE ALL PROPOSED TO ME IN WRITING THAT WE SHOULD TAKE OVER WITH OUR OWN ARMY UNITS UNDER COMMANDS OF GEN. MAXWELL CERTAIN PORTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION BURDEN AS WELL AS THE INSTALLATION MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A SYSTEM OF TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATIONS. I AM SENDING IN AMERICAN EQUIVALENTS THE WRITTEN REQUESTS PRESENTED TO ME BY THE BRIT YESTERDAY BY A SEPARATE MESSAGE THROUGH GEN. MAXWELL TO THE WAR DEPT. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEND AT LEAST THE TRUCK DRIVERS IMMEDIATELY. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND GEN. MAXWELL IS EXCELLENT AND HE CONCURS IN MY OPINION THAT THE BRITISH ARE DOING AS GOOD A JOB AS THE INADEQUATE MEANS AND THE IMMENSE TERRAIN WILL PERMIT. PLEASE SHOW THIS MESSAGE TO MARSHALL, STIMSON, AND HOPKINS.**

**(END)**

~~**SECRET**~~

**REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED**



PSF Safe

## NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PHONE EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
FROM <b>HOTCHKISS CARRO</b>	<b>OPNAV</b>	<del>PRIORITY</del>
RELEASED BY		ROUTINE
DATE <b>23 DEC 1941</b>		DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM <b>1942</b>	<b>REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED</b>	PRIORITY
DECODED BY <b>TIERS</b>		ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY <b>PURDY</b>		DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY

202300 CR0677  
 202315 CR0678  
 202330 CR0676

UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME FOR DEFERRED AND MAIL DELIVERY

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

(PART ONE 202300 CR0677) FOLLOWING FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT  
~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~ - QUOTE "THE BRITISH BOTH ON THE WEST COAST OF  
 AFRICA WHERE I CONFERRED WITH GENERAL GIFFARD AND HIS STAFF AND IN

CAIRO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE ABSOLUTE INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE  
 FOLLOWING POINTS. (1) THERE ARE ONLY TWO GERMAN DIVISIONS ON THE SPAN-  
 ISH FRONTIER OF THE PYRENEES. (2) ALL BRITISH INFORMATION INDICATES

THAT THERE ARE NO GERMAN AIRCRAFT IN EITHER MORROCCO, ALGIERS TUNIS OR  
 THE DAKAR REGION. MOREOVER THERE ARE NO GERMAN SUBMARINES BASED AT  
 DAKAR OR ON THE PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

GENERAL GIFFARD STATED THAT HE HAD A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION MADE OF THE  
 ENTIRE COAST AND ES (ENEMY SHIPS?) OPERATING IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ARE  
 REFUELED BY SUPPLY SHIPS AND NOT FROM SHORE BASES. (3) THE BRITISH HERE

BELIEVE THAT THE WEATHER AND THE CONCENTRATION OF TURKISH TROOPS IN  
 THRACE WILL CAUSE THE GERMANS TO PUT OFF ANY POSSIBLE ATTACK AGAINST  
 TURKEY UNTIL THE EARLY SPRING."

PART TWO (202315 CR0678)

MY 202300 FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT CONTINUES QUOTE "THE BRITISH  
 AND MARSHALL IN CAIRO TEDDER DESIRED ME TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION  
 THAT THE GERMAN FAILURE TO GET THROUGH TO THE OIL WELLS OF THE CAUCASUS  
 HAS MADE THE OIL WELLS OF THE PLOESTI REGION IN RUMANIA VITAL TO GERMANY

# SECRET

SEE ART 76 (4)  
 NAV REGS

MAKE ORIGINAL ONLY, DELIVER TO COMMUNICATION WATCH OFFICER IN PERSON



## NAVAL MESSAGE

## NAVY DEPARTMENT

PHONE EXTENSION NUMBER		ADDRESSEES	MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
FROM _____	FOR ACTION		PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE _____			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY

SHEET TWO OF

202300 CR0677

202315 CR0678

202330 CR0676

UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME FOR DEFERRED AND MAIL DELIVERY

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

HE BELIEVES THAT THREE SQUADRONS OF LIBERATORS BASED IN CAIRO COULD DESTROY THIS OIL FIELD IN AN ATTACK TO BE SUSTAINED OVER A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS. I TOLD THE AIR MARSHALL AND GENERAL AUCHINLECK THAT WE

WERE EXTREMELY SHORT OF LIBERATORS AND THAT I FELT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NONE TO SPARE FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE WAS NEVER-THE-LESS MOST INSISTANT THAT I SHOULD PRESENT THIS POSSIBILITY TO YOU AS THE

VITAL LINK IN THE WHOLE STRATEGIC PICTURE."

PART THREE (202330 CR0676)

MY 202315 FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT. CONTINUES QUOTE "THE BRITISH AIR FORCE OPERATING IN LIBYA IS STILL STRONGER THAN THE GERMAN. THIS IS DUE TO SHORTAGE ON THE GERMAN SIDE OF AVIATION GASOLINE AND MAIN-

TENANCE FACILITIES. THE GERMANS SAID ITALIANS ARE MAKING MOST DETERMINED EFFORTS TO GET THROUGH GASOLINE AND OIL AND TANKS AS WELL AS AIRPLANES TO LIBYA. IF THEY SHOULD SUCCEED IN DELIVERING A FEW LARGE CARGOES THE

ENTIRE PICTURE IN THIS AREA WOULD CHANGE AT ONCE. SPEED IS THEREFOR ESSENTIAL. LYTTLETON HAS INFORMED ME THAT AUCHINLECK IS TO BE GIVEN COMMAND NOT ONLY OVER NORTH AFRICA PALESTINE AND SYRIA BUT ALSO OVER

IRAQ AND IRAN. WAVELL IS TO COMMAND IN INDIA AND BURMA. GENERAL WHEELER'S MISSION IN IRAQ AND IRAN WILL THEREFOR IN THE FUTURE BE NEAR

**SECRET**

SEE ART 76 (4)  
NAV REGS

MAKE ORIGINAL ONLY, DELIVER TO COMMUNICATION WATCH OFFICER IN PERSON

## NAVAL MESSAGE

## NAVY DEPARTMENT

PHONE EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES		MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
FROM _____	FOR ACTION		PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE _____			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY

SHEET THREE OF 1

202300 CR0677  
202315 CR0678  
202330 CR0676

UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME FOR DEFERRED AND MAIL DELIVERY

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

FUTURE BE OPERATING IN AN AREA COMMANDED NOT FROM DELHI BUT FROM CAIRO  
BULLITT UNQUOTE ENDS.

## DISTRIBUTION:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.....ACTION. PERSONAL FILE.

# ~~SECRET~~

SEE ART 76(4)  
NAV REGS

MAKE ORIGINAL ONLY, DELIVER TO COMMUNICATION WATCH OFFICER IN PERSON



PSF - Safe  
Bullitt

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

CR 466. FROM BULLITT, CAIRO, ~~SECRET~~ TO THE PRESIDENT.

WHEN I FIRST REACHED CAIRO, I SUGGESTED TO LYTTLETON THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE FRENCH FLEET IN ALEXANDRIA (1 BATTLESHIP, 3 HEAVY CRUISERS, 1 LIGHT CRUISER, 4 DD'S, AND 1 SUB) TO COME OVER TO OUR SIDE. HE SAID THAT THE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT THERE WAS MUCH TOO MUCH HOSTILITY ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH OFFICERS & MEN BOTH TO THE BRITISH AND TO THE FREE FRENCH TO BE WILLING TO JOIN EITHER OF THOSE FORCES. IT WAS MY SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO JOIN THE AMERICAN FLEET. LYTTLETON WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE IDEA AND TELEGRAPHED TO CHURCHILL BUT HAS HAD AS YET NO REPLY. WHEN I RETURNED TO CAIRO YESTERDAY I AGAIN DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH LYTTLETON. HE IS STILL OF THE OPINION THAT IT COULD BE PUT THROUGH IF YOU AND CHURCHILL SO DESIRE. I SHOULD LIKE TO MINUTELY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES AND SUGGEST THAT YOU AND I USE AS A PRIVATE CODE "JOHN PAUL JONES" AND REFER TO IT IN FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS MERELY BY THE WORDS "JOHN" "PAUL" OR "JONES".. THE FRENCH SHIPS ARE IN BAD CONDITION; AND I MAY FIND DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD MAKE ANY ACTION UNDESIRABLE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SHOULD OUR CAUSE BE JOINED BY THE FRENCH FLEET AT ALEXANDRIA IT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE DANGER OF AN ERUPTION FROM DARLAN AND THE GERMANS. I SHOULD BE INCLINED TO TAKE A CHANCE ON THAT. NOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT. WOULD YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO FRENCH FLEET HERE RUNNING UP THE AMERICAN FLAG? UNTIL I HEAR FROM YOU I SHALL DO NOTHING.

ACTION: PRES. U.S.....

PERSONAL FILE.....

271215.

*Secret*

12-27-41?



75 F. Safe: Bullitt

W7

ALUSNA CAIRO

PPPPPPPP

OPNAV

2 JANUARY 1942

Ø218/2

ALLENSWORTH

V TUCKER

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

Ø123ØØ CRØ584

FOLLOWING ~~SECRET~~ FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT.

I HOPE THAT YOU AND CHURCHILL IN YOUR PLANNING ARE KEEPING IN MIND THE VITAL NEED TO RETAIN EGYPT AS A SECURE BASE NOT ONLY FOR

OPERATIONS IN LIBYA TUNISIA PALESTINE THE LEBANON SYRIA AND TURKEY BUT ALSO FOR TRANSIT OF PLANES TO INDIA AND THE FAR EAST.

AS I HAVE NOTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES THE DISTANCES IN THIS AREA ARE SO IMMENSE AND THE FORCES ENGAGED RELATIVELY SO SMALL THAT A

COMPARATIVELY SLIGHT INCREASE IN FORCE ON THE GERMAN SIDE MIGHT CHANGE THE PICTURE ENTIRELY. FOR EXAMPLE ONE LARGE CONVOY FROM ITALY

TO TRIPOLI WITH SUFFICIENT AVIATION GASOLINE TO FURNISH THE GERMAN SECOND FLYING CORPS NOW WAITING IN SICILY AND ITALY WOULD ENABLE

THAT CORPS TO OPERATE IN LIBYA AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE AIR FROM THE BRITISH. IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE BRITISH NAVAL FORCES

BASED ON ALEXANDRIA OF WHICH CHURCHILL HAS CERTAINLY INFORMED YOU THE STOPPING OF CONVOYS TO TRIPOLI WILL NOT BE EASY. TO DRAW FORCES

AWAY FROM THIS AREA OR TO FAIL TO REENFORCE THIS AREA BECAUSE OF DEMANDS FROM THE FAR EAST MIGHT LEAD TO A REPETITION OF EVENTS IN

LIBYA WHEN FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN TO GO TO GREECE. THE SUCCESSES WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE GAINED IN LIBYA HAVE BEEN DEARLY BOUGHT AND WILL

LEAD TO NO DECISIVE RESULT UNLESS TRIPOLI SHOULD BE OCCUPIED. SOME DAYS AGO I WAS SHOWN THE TELEGRAM IN WHICH THE BRITISH COMMAND HERE

PAGE 2 OF 012300

~~SECRET~~

STATED ITS REQUIREMENTS. CHURCHILL DOUBTLESS HAS ALREADY COMMUNICATED THIS TO YOU. I WISH TO ADD ONLY THAT THE CHIEF ASSET OF THE BRITISH IN THIS AREA IS THEIR QUALITY OF BEING WITHOUT FEAR. I THINK THEY NEED IN ADDITION AT THIS MOMENT REENFORCEMENTS IN NAVAL VESSELS AIRCRAFT TANKS AND TRANSPORT AND SIGNAL UNITS. BULLITT.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date FEB 3 1972

012300



W12

HOTCHKISS CAIRO

OPNAV

RRRRRRRRR

2 JANUARY 1942

SMITH

V TUCKER

~~SECRET~~

311331 CR0659

FOLLOWING SECRET FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM BULLITT.  
QUOTE(ONE)LYTTLETON HAS ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM IN A STATEMENT OF OUR  
VIEWS WHICH ARE IN AGREEMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INVASION OF  
TUNISIA IN CASE AUCHINLECKS FORCES SHOULD REACH THE TUNISIAN FRONTIER.  
AS HIS MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND CODES ARE MUCH MORE RAPID THAN OUR  
OWN HE IS TELEGRAPHING TONIGHT TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR FOR YOU AND  
CHURCHILL A DRAFT WHICH WE HAVE PREPARED TOGETHER. (TWO) I CONSIDER  
IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU SHOULD GIVE THE ORDERS REQUESTED IN MY  
TELEGRAM OF DECEMBER 20TH AND IN MY TELEGRAM I SENT ON THE SAME DATE  
THROUGH GENERAL MAXWELL TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT. THE PROBLEM OF  
TRANSPORTATION AND TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS IN THIS  
AREA IS BECOMING MORE SERIOUS WITH EACH STEP THAT THE BRITISH  
ADVANCE. BULLITT. UNQUOTE.

PERSONAL FOR THE PRESIDENT  
SEALED SECRET FILE

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By J. Schauble Date FEB 3 1972

*Smith, Tucker*



*Safe: Bullitt*

*bot*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Has Bullitt been answered relative to the French fleet, Alexandria?

You will recall that he, in effect, asked for instructions and I gather that the joint view of the British and ourselves is that Bullitt should not stir that up at the moment.

HARRY L. HOPKINS

TELEGRAM

January 2, 1942

TO: CAIRO

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR BULLITT  
HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LESSAGES WHICH HAVE BEEN READ BY  
THE PRIME MINISTER AND ME WITH GREAT INTEREST.

APROPOS OF YOUR CR 0584 OF JANUARY 2 SUPPLIES ARE MOVING  
STEADILY FORWARD AND FULL APPRECIATION HERE OF NEED FOR THEIR  
CONTINUED AND PROMPT DISPATCH.

ROOSEVELT

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date FEB 3 1972

Safe File: Bullitt

[PSF, Safe, Bullitt]

Box

JAN 14 1942

CR 0515

FROM BULLITT  
ACTION THE PRESIDENT

I HAVE STUDIED THE SITUATION IN IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, THE  
LEBANON, PALESTINE AND EGYPT. UNLESS YOU HAVE WORK FOR ME TO  
DO IN INDIA OR CHINA OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY IN THIS AREA, I  
BELIEVE THAT I SHOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON AT ONCE TO REPORT  
TO YOU ON THE PRESENT FACTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS IN THIS  
AREA AS THE ENTIRE WORLD SITUATION HAS CHANGED SINCE MY LEAVING.  
PLEASE REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE TRAVEL  
ARRANGEMENTS.

ACTION...THE PRESIDENT



## NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

757-544  
Bullett

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <b>HOTCHKISS CAIRO</b>	FOR ACTION	<b>OPNAV</b>	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <b>21 JAN 42</b>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM <b>1845/21ST</b>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY <b>J ALLEN</b>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY <b>GLTUCKER</b>			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

**201930 CR 0550**

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

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
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TEXT

**FROM BULLETT.****FOR THE PRESIDENT(PERSONAL)**

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A 4 DAY VISIT TO THE LIBYAN FIGHTING FRONT. AS I HAVE NO WORD FROM YOU INDICATING THAT YOU WISH ME TO PROCEED TO ANY OTHER POINT I AM PLANNING TO LEAVE CAIRO FOR WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY MORNING JANUARY 23RD VIA LIBERATOR.

**PRESIDENT U.S.....ACT.****PERSONAL FILE.....****DUMMY.**

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By J. Schauble Date **FEB 3 1972**

~~**SECRET**~~ **201930**

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)