

● PSF SAFE FILE: LORD LOTHIAN

Safe ; Lord Lothian



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 5, 1939.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

There is attached hereto a self-explanatory memorandum which the British Ambassador left at the Department when he called this morning.

C H



If the existing list of "arms, ammunition and implements of war", the export of which to belligerent countries is now prohibited by the President's Proclamation of September 5th, were to be amended and any articles were to be omitted, the articles which His Majesty's Government would be most interested in seeing excluded would be the following:-

CATEGORY I.

- (3) Gun liners.
- (4) Small arms ammunition. Shell bodies. Cartridge cases.

CATEGORY II.

Articles used for naval purposes, more particularly mines.

CATEGORY III and
CATEGORY V

Aircraft of all kinds including engines, individual component parts of aircraft engines, aeronautical equipment and instruments normally supplied with complete aeroplanes.

CATEGORY VII.

(1) and (2). Chemicals not made up finally into explosives and charges.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON D.C.

October 2nd 1939.

Safe: Lord Lothian

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

November 13, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I am enclosing a copy of a telegram received by the British Embassy from its Government dated November tenth which contains secret information on the European situation which may be of interest to you.

C.H.

Telegram of November 10th

[1939]

~~MOST SECRET~~

Latest reports point clearly to possibility of attack by Germany on Holland and Belgium. In consequence the British Ambassador at Brussels was instructed early on November 10th to represent to the Belgian Government that in either event it would be essential that resistance of Belgium and Holland should at once be supported by France and Great Britain, but that in order to render such support effectively, plans should be concerted immediately with the Belgian military authorities.

Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs told the British Ambassador on the morning of November 10th in reply that he would refer matter at once to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence. He gave the assurance that he was personally in favour of immediate staff contact. In any case the Belgian Military Attaché at Paris had been instructed to see General Gamelin. The attitude of Belgian military authorities would depend on the reception given to the Belgian Military Attaché and whether it was made clear to him that French and British forces were prepared to come to the assistance of Belgium immediately and in sufficient force. Finally he emphasised the need of absolute secrecy since the Germans were only seeking an excuse to justify an attack.

Meanwhile His Majesty's Government learn from the British Ambassador at Paris that the French Government yesterday made a similar communication to the Belgian Government and that according to the French Government the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had hitherto refused to entertain military conversations, was now appealing for them urgently. A French General would be sent at once to Brussels.

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Safe: Lord Lothian

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

November 13, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a letter just received from the British Ambassador relative to the telegram of November tenth, which the British Embassy received from its Government and which I sent over to you this morning.

CH

Most Secret

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 13th, 1939.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

In the last paragraph of the telegram of which Mr. Mallet sent you a copy in his letter of November 11th it was stated that the Foreign Office had heard from our Ambassador in Paris that the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs was appealing for military conversations with the French authorities and that a French general was to be sent at once to Brussels. It would seem however from a further telegram which has now reached us from London that the earlier message was not altogether accurate. Our Ambassador at Brussels states that it is exaggerated to say that M. Spaak is appealing for conversations and that it is not the case that a French general is being sent to Brussels.

Believe me, My dear Mr. Secretary,

Yours very sincerely,

LOTHIAN

The Honourable
Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State of
the United States,
Washington, D. C.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 17th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I have just been informed by the Foreign Office that, as you are no doubt aware, the new French Government ^{has} asked through the Spanish Government for the cessation of hostilities and to be informed of the conditions on which an armistice would be granted.

His Majesty's Ambassador in Bordeaux has now been instructed to make to the new French Government the communications regarding the question of an armistice which were contained in paragraph 2 of the telegram sent to me yesterday by Lord Halifax (copy of which marked (1) I gave you last night) and in the telegram/

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



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telegram addressed yesterday by Lord Halifax to Bordeaux (copy of which marked (2) I also handed to you last night.)

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Moran