

● PSF Great Britain: Transfer of Defense Articles

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

March 21, 1941

FOR THE PRESIDENT  
U.S.S. POTOMAC

VIA NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

POSTMASTER GENERAL ASKS ME TO SEND FOLLOWING: QUOTE  
REFERRING TO DISCUSSION AT LAST MEETING OF CABINET REGARDING  
THREE SUPER CLIPPER BOEINGS WHICH WERE TO BE TURNED OVER  
BY PAN AMERICAN TO THE BRITISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARRANGEMENT  
MADE SOMETIME AGO IT IS NOW SUGGESTED THAT IT IS NOT DESIRABLE  
TO DO THIS AT THIS TIME BUT NOBODY IS AUTHORIZED TO HOLD UP  
TRANSFER. HAVE TALKED WITH WELLES AND KNOX AND ALL THREE OF  
US AGREE THAT TRANSFER SHOULD BE HELD UP UNTIL YOUR RETURN  
AND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE SOMEBODY TO SO NOTIFY PAN AMERICAN.  
END QUOTE.

POSTMASTER GENERAL ADVISES THAT HE IS LEAVING FOR  
SEATTLE TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

FORSTER

C  
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P  
Y

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations  
Washington

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Attention Mr. Forster.

For Postmaster General:

Ask Welles to consult British  
relative to proposed withdrawal of transfer of three  
Boeings. Suggest holding final decision until I return.

FDR

|| Original of this message sent to the Postmaster General,  
3/22/41.

March 23, 1941.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

At the request of the British Government I hereby consent to and direct that the following ordnance materiel heretofore approved for transfer to the United Kingdom be transferred instead to the Government of Greece:

60 Field howitzers 155 mm  
50 Caissons 75 mm guns  
100 Limbers 75 mm guns  
15,000 Shell, H.E., 155 mm How.  
4,000 Shell, W.P., 155 mm How.  
10,000 Charges, Prop. reduced 155 mm How.  
9,000 Charges, Prop. normal, 155 mm How.  
50 Scout cars, M3  
40 Tractors, medium (track laying)

I find that the defense of the Turkish Government is vital to the defense of the United States. In view of this finding, I hereby consent to and direct that 50 155 mm howitzers and 18,500 rounds of 155 mm ammunition heretofore approved for transfer to the United Kingdom be transferred instead to the Government of Turkey.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED  
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.  
By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 9 1972

March 22, 1941.

DECLASSIFIED  
DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 12/9/71

Signature- RHP

MEMORANDUM TO MR. FORSTER,  
THE WHITE HOUSE.

It is recommended that a message substantially as follows be sent to the President:

The British Government has requested that the items shown in recommended action below, approved by you for transfer to the British on March 11, 1941, be transferred instead to the Greek Government.

The Chief of Staff has no objection to this transfer as it does not in any way change the total set up in the original list which he submitted to the President.

If you approve, it is recommended that the following instructions be sent to the Secretary of War:

"At the request of the British Government I hereby consent to and direct that the following ordnance materiel heretofore approved for transfer to the United Kingdom be transferred instead to the Government of Greece:

60 Field howitzers 155 mm  
50 Caissons 75 mm guns  
100 Limbers 75 mm guns  
15,000 Shell, H.E., 155 mm How.  
4,000 Shell, W.P., 155 mm How.  
10,000 Charges, Prop. reduced 155 mm How.  
9,000 Charges, Prop. normal, 155 mm How.  
50 Scout cars, M3  
40 Tractors, medium (track laying)"

I further recommend that the above message be connected up with another message, dated March 21, 1941, concerning transfers to Turkey which Mr. Cox delivered to you yesterday.

(Signed) J. H. BURNS.

J. H. BURNS,  
Major General, U.S. Army

~~SECRET~~

*Transfer Defense  
articles  
folder  
5-41*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARRY HOPKINS

To speak to me about.

F. D. R.

**Enclosures**

Memo 4/2/41 to Secy Morgenthau from  
E. H. Foley, Jr., enclosing redraft  
of over-all Agreement to cover defense  
articles made available to the United  
Kingdom which incorporates suggestions  
made by FDR at meeting with him and H. H.  
3/14/41

Transfer Defense  
articles

5-41

April 14, 1941

My dear Mr. Purvis:

By my letter of March 11, 1941, I authorized the transfer of the defense articles set forth in the annexed schedule to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Act of March 11, 1941, I hereby consent to the use of those defense articles by either His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, or by any of the Allied troops, or such transfer of those defense articles by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to the Royal Yugoslav Government as the representatives of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom shall deem necessary.

Very sincerely yours,

*(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Hon. Arthur B. Purvis,  
Chairman, British Supply  
Council in North America,  
Willard Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

4-3-41

DEFENSE ARTICLES AUTHORIZED FOR THE  
USE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR BY ANY  
OF THE ALLIED TROOPS, OR FOR TRANSFER  
BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE ROYAL  
YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT.

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75 - 75 mm. Field Equipments (with split-trail and pneumatics)  
75,000 rounds ammunition 75 mm. gun  
50 - 155 mm. Field Howitzers (hi-speed, with tractors)  
25,000 rounds ammunition 155 mm. How.

**Department of State**

BUREAU  
DIVISION

RA

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted.....

ADDRESSED TO

.....**The President.**.....

Miss Tully.

This has

Mr. Hopkins' approval

sent

came to file 4/14/41

Transfer Defense articles  
Articles 1-41

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Consultation having been had with the Chief of Staff of the Army, I find that:

- (1) The defense of the United Kingdom is vital to the defense of the United States;
- (2) Sections 4 and 7 of the Act of March 11, 1941 have been complied with by the necessary agreement on the part of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom;
- (3) It would be in the interests of our national defense to transfer the defense articles set forth in the annexed schedule.

I therefore authorize you immediately to make the transfer to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of the defense articles set forth in the annexed schedule.

I would appreciate it if you would arrange with the Chairman of the British Supply Council in North America for the time, method, and other details of the disposition.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable

The Secretary of War

DEFENSE ARTICLES AUTHORIZED FOR  
TRANSFER BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

From April production

66 Light tanks M-3 with armament,  
spare parts, and other Govern-  
ment furnished equipment.

From May production

98 Light tanks M-3 with armament,  
spare parts, and other Govern-  
ment furnished equipment.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*file  
journal*

May 19, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS TULLY:

THIS MATTER HAS BEEN  
ATTENDED TO. I HAVE DISCUSSED  
IT WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE  
HAS REFERRED THE WHOLE MATTER  
TO SECRETARY HULL IN A LETTER  
WRITTEN A DAY OR TWO AGO.  
THEREFORE THIS CAN BE FILED.

*HLH*

HARRY L. HOPKINS

*Tully*  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARRY HOPKINS

To speak to me about.



F. D. R.

Enclosures

PSF-G. B.: Transfer Defense  
Articles Folder  
Drawer 5-41

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Secretary Morgenthau  
FROM Mr. Foley

DATE  
April 2, 1941

Attached is a redraft of the over-all Agreement to cover defense articles made available to the United Kingdom which incorporates the suggestions made by the President at our meeting with him and Harry Hopkins on March 14, 1941.

At that time the President said he was in no hurry to sign the Agreement and suggested, after the appropriation measure was passed by Congress, that we take up the redraft, first, with the State Department, second, with the Attorney General, and third, with the Director of the Budget, and, subject to Harry Hopkins' first clearing with Dean Acheson as to the attitude of the State Department, begin discussions in a preliminary way with the British.

I called Dean Acheson last Friday and told him that we were ready to sit down with him and go over the redraft, but I haven't heard anything from him although he promised to give me a call not later than last Monday.

I suggest that you ascertain at the meeting this afternoon whether or not Treasury or State is to take the Agreement up with the British.

*E. W. Foley*

Attachment

WHEREAS, the President of the United States is authorized by the Act of the Congress of the United States of March 11, 1941 ( Public No. 11, 77th Congress, and hereinafter called the Act) to sell, transfer title to, exchange, lease, lend or otherwise dispose of, and to take certain further action with respect to, defense articles to the government of any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States, on such terms and conditions as the President deems satisfactory, and

WHEREAS, the President has determined that the defense of the United Kingdom is vital to the defense of the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by the United States and the United Kingdom as follows:

1. From time to time and in such amounts as the President may determine, the United States will, pursuant to the Act,

(a) furnish to the United Kingdom certain defense articles;

(b) test, inspect, prove, repair, outfit, recondition or otherwise place in good working order any defense article, or procure any or all such services by private contract; and

(c) communicate defense information pertaining to any defense article furnished hereunder, as valued and listed or otherwise described in schedules, appropriately identified, now or hereafter to be attached to this Agreement.

2. Within such period or periods as determined by the President, notice of which determination shall be given to the United Kingdom,

(a) The United Kingdom agrees to redeliver to the United States such defense articles furnished to the United Kingdom hereunder which, in the opinion of the President, are not used up, worn out, destroyed, or otherwise rendered incapable of effective use.

(b) The United Kingdom agrees, in the case of defense articles, other than agricultural commodities, which in the opinion of the President are used up, worn out, destroyed, or otherwise rendered incapable of effective use, to furnish to the United States an equivalent amount of similar defense articles, which, in the opinion of the President, are of a quality, efficiency and relative value substantially equal to the defense articles furnished hereunder to the United Kingdom.

(c) The United Kingdom agrees, in return for

(i) agricultural commodities, and  
(ii) other defense articles, services and

defense information, furnished to it hereunder and for which the United States has not otherwise received full reimbursement, to furnish to the United States an equivalent in tin, rubber, jute, and other products and commodities produced in the British Empire or elsewhere and which,

in the opinion of the President, are needed by the United States. Such products and commodities shall be furnished in such quantities and at such time or times as shall be determined by the President.

(d) In lieu of returning or furnishing the defense articles or similar defense articles as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the United Kingdom may, at its option, furnish or transfer to the United States any raw materials or other property, services, information, facilities, or other consideration or benefits acceptable to the President.

To the extent that, during such period or periods determined by the President, the United States shall not have received pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) full reimbursement for the defense articles, services, and defense information furnished to the United Kingdom hereunder, the United States shall be entitled to receive or otherwise acquire, and the United Kingdom agrees to furnish or otherwise transfer, property, services, information, facilities and other consideration and benefits acceptable to the President.

3. By future agreement, the parties may substitute, in lieu of Section 2, any other payment or repayment in kind or property, or any other direct or indirect benefit to the United States, which the President deems satisfactory.

4. The President shall determine the fair value of any property, services, information, facilities or other consideration or benefit received by the United States from the United Kingdom; and the United Kingdom shall be credited therefor on account of the defense articles, services and defense information furnished to the United States hereunder. For any defense article returned to the United States pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 2 above, the United Kingdom shall receive a credit equal to the value given to such defense article in the schedules now or hereafter to be attached to this Agreement. The parties to this Agreement shall periodically review the status of the accounts arising under this Agreement, and the President may from time to time determine any credits to be given to the United Kingdom by reason of any consideration or benefit which the President determines shall have been received by the United States from the United Kingdom.

5. The United Kingdom agrees that it will not, without the consent of the President, transfer title to or possession of any defense article or defense information furnished to the United Kingdom hereunder or permit its use by anyone not an officer, employee, or agent of the United Kingdom.

6. If, as a result of furnishing to the United Kingdom any defense articles or defense information, it

is necessary for the United Kingdom to take any action or make any payment in order fully to protect, pursuant to the Act, any of the rights of any citizen of the United States who has patent rights in and to any such defense article or information, the United Kingdom will do so, when so requested by the President.

7. Any defense articles, materials, or other personal property to be returned, furnished, or paid to the United States hereunder, shall be delivered or paid by the United Kingdom at such place or places in the United States, or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, as from time to time shall be determined by the President. Any defense article or other property, service, information, facility, or other consideration or benefit to which the United States shall become entitled hereunder shall, in so far as the rights, powers and privileges of the United States may thereby be affected, be exempt and immune from any taxes, charges, restrictions, regulations and controls of any nature under the laws of the United Kingdom or any political subdivision thereof.

8. The United States may at any time cease furnishing the defense articles, services and defense information referred to in Section 1 above. Such cessation shall not affect any of the rights, powers, or privileges of the United States or of the President hereunder or of any of the duties, liabilities, or obligations of the United Kingdom, all of which shall continue in effect until the

United Kingdom shall have fully performed its duties and obligations and discharged its liabilities hereunder. Any default by the United Kingdom in the performance of any of its duties or obligations or in the discharge of its liabilities hereunder shall entitle the United States, by appropriate action to be determined by the President, to enforce its rights, powers, claims and privileges hereunder.

9. The President may exercise any power or authority conferred on him hereunder through such officer or agency as he shall direct for that purpose. The terms "defense article" and "defense information" as used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as defined in the Act.

10. Any notice under the hand of the President or any officer designated by him shall be deemed and taken as the notice of the United States and the President and shall be sufficient if delivered at the British Embassy at Washington, D. C., or at the office of the Permanent Secretary of the British Treasury in London; and any notice by the United Kingdom shall be sufficient if delivered to the American Embassy in London, or to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States at the Treasury of the United States in Washington, D. C. Any waiver of any notice required hereunder shall not extend to or affect any subsequent notice or waive any right of the parties to require notice hereunder.

8. The parties to this Agreement, and the officials signing this Agreement on their behalf, each for itself, himself, or themselves, represent and agree that the execution and delivery of this Agreement have in all respects been duly authorized, and that all acts, conditions and legal formalities which should have been performed and completed prior to the making of this Agreement have been performed and completed as required by, and in conformity with, respectively, the laws of the United States and the United Kingdom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement in duplicate at the City of Washington, District of Columbia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1941.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By \_\_\_\_\_

(Title)

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM

By \_\_\_\_\_

(Title)