CABLEGRAM

Received at the War Department Message Center
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April 12, 1942

From LONDON

To POTUS

No. 50, April 12th, 1942.

Former Naval Person to President personal
and secret No. 68.

I have read with earnest attention your
masterly document about future of the war and the
great operations proposed. I am in entire agreement
in principle with all you propose, and so are the Chiefs
of Staff. We must of course meet day to day emergencies
in the east and far east while preparing for the main
stroke. All the details are being rapidly examined and
preparations where action is clear have already begun.
The whole matter will be discussed on evening of Tuesday,
the 14th, by Defense Committee, to which Harry and Marshall
are coming, and I have no doubt that I shall be able to
send you our complete agreement.

I may say that I thought the proposals made
for an interim operation in certain contingencies this
year met the difficulties and uncertainties in an abso-
lutely sound manner. If, as our experts believe, we
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I can carry this whole plan through successfully, it will be one of the grand events in all the history of war.

About 3 AM this morning, the 12th, when contrary to your instructions Harry and I were still talking, the text of your message to me about India came through from London. I could not decide such a matter without convening the Cabinet, which was not physically possible till Monday. Meanwhile Cripps had already left and all the explanations have been published by both sides. In these circumstances, Harry undertook to telephone to you explaining the position, but owing to atmospherics he could not get through. He is going to telephone you this afternoon and also cable you a report.

You know the weight which I attach to everything you say to me, but I did not feel I could take responsibility for the defence of India if everything has again to be thrown into the melting pot at this critical
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juncture. That I am sure would be the view of
Cabinet and of Parliament. As your telegram was
addressed to former Naval Person I am keeping it
as purely private, and I do not propose to bring it
before the Cabinet officially unless you tell me
you wish this done. Anything like a serious dif-
ference between you and me would break my heart and
surely deeply injure both our countries at the height
of this terrible struggle.
Prime