

SECRET

China: Safety of B.S. Nationals

No. 504

1113/1/39

(FH849/3918/10)

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THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to His Majesty's Representative at *Washington* and, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
30th May, 1939.



Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Admiralty and War Office 4 th May 1939	Evacuation of British nationals from Shanghai and other parts of China in event of war with Japan
From War Office 19 th May 1939	1st. <i>[illegible]</i> 1576 1st. <i>[illegible]</i> 1576
and To War Office 26 th May 1939	Service etc. <i>[illegible]</i> 12/VI <i>[illegible]</i> 12/VI

A similar despatch has been addressed to H.M. Representative at *Paris*
Consular Officer at no 1303

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CODY.

(F 3949/3918/10).

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

SECRET.

4th May, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to enclose copies of two telegrams which he has received from His Majesty's Consul-General and the officer in charge of His Majesty's Embassy at Shanghai concerning the evacuation of British nationals from Shanghai in the event of war between this country and Japan.

2. Lord Halifax agrees with the view expressed by Sir Herbert Phillips that such evacuation would be impracticable either before or after the outbreak of hostilities. He further agrees with the suggestion made by Mr. Broadmead that, since the local British communities in China would have to remain where they are, immediate steps should be taken to consult with the French and United States Governments as to the measures to be taken to safeguard the nationals of our respective countries in the contingencies referred to. In Lord Halifax's opinion particular care should be taken to avoid the situation alluded to by Mr. Broadmead in the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph of his telegram.

3. Lord Halifax would be glad to know whether the Army Council concur in the proposal that the French and United States Governments be consulted and, if so, whether they have any suggestions to make as to the line which should be followed in such consultations. As regards the French Government, he would suggest that the subject might be discussed in the course of the staff conversations at present in progress.

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The Under-Secretary of State,

War Office.

4. A similar letter is being sent to the Admiralty and a copy of this letter is being sent to Colonel Hollis, Committee of Imperial Defence.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) R.G. Howe.