

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.,

May 13th, 1940.

No. 434.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that the Department of Justice have announced the establishment of a "Neutrality Law Unit" whose function will be to decide what legal action should be taken in all cases of infringement or suspected infringement of the Neutrality Laws. The reason for the establishment of this unit, according to the statement of the Department of Justice, is to achieve uniformity of policy in dealing with cases of infraction of the neutrality laws. Hitherto the discretion in such matters has lain in the hands of the different district attorneys and their policy has varied in different parts of the country.

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2. The President has issued a statement assuring the public that the "Neutrality Law Unit" is intended to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation and not to subtract from anything it is now doing. It has been created, so the statement says, with the approval of Mr. J. Edgar Hoover as well as of that of the Attorney General,

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

The Right Honourable

(SGD) LOTHIAN

The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,
etc. etc. etc.

FRHM:JF:AR:HK