

Minutes. Ref. G40 / 141

H. E.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Perhaps when you see the President tomorrow you could ask him whether he would be prepared to let you have copies (or at all events the substance) of any messages on official matters which he may send to the Prime Minister through the American Embassy in London. A certain amount of confusion is apt to arise occasionally when the Foreign Office send us telegrams referring to earlier messages from the President to the Prime Minister of which we have not got copies. This is particularly the case when the President's message has been in reply to one from the Prime Minister sent through this Embassy. A recent concrete case had to do with the repair of H. M. G. "Malaya". The original enquiry as to whether this ship could be repaired in an American shipyard was contained in a message from the Prime Minister to the President sent through this Embassy. The answer agreeing to the suggestion was sent by the President through the American Embassy in London. We here were never informed either as to the contents of this answer or that it had been sent and if it had not been for the fact that the N. A. was able to discover informally through the Navy Department what was going on we would not have known how matters stood.

London nowadays send us copies of any messages which the Prime Minister may have sent to the President through the American Embassy in London and it would help us a lot if similar arrangements could be made as regards the President's messages.

FRHM:GW

Jm
5th April, 1941

See my record of talk with Pres

*see 79A.
Washington Tel. to Co.
No. 1574 of April 9th, 1941. H.
5.4*