

H.E.

The present position in regard to messages exchanged between the Prime Minister and the President is as follows.

We of course get here the full text of any message from the Prime Minister which he wishes us to deliver to the White House. We have also hitherto been sent for our information the texts of any messages from the Prime Minister which have been sent to the President via the American Embassy in London.

Despite the President's assurances, given 2 months ago, that he would let us have copies or the substance of any messages which he might send to the Prime Minister (these messages are practically invariably sent through the American Embassy in London), we have only been given a few of the messages - and then as a rule only after we have asked for them.

Furthermore, such messages as we have been given have been given us in paraphrase form which is really not so satisfactory as the original.

The present situation is therefore not very satisfactory and it may become even worse if the suggestion made by the F.O. is adopted. This is, that whenever the Prime Minister sends a message to the President through the American Embassy in London, the F.O., instead of as now telegraphing the full text to us for our own information, should merely inform us of the fact that some message has been sent. This of course would be an improvement from the point of view of our cypher room and of economy, but it may mean that unless we can make some better arrangement with the American authorities we shall never get the texts of these messages at all.

I do not think there is much use in our taking the matter up with the White House as the F.O. suggest, as the machinery there never seems particularly efficient. Much the best way, I think, would be to explain matters quite frankly to Mr. Welles, since all the telegrams pass through the S.D. Mr. Welles is more likely than anyone else to appreciate our difficulties. What we want is to be sent - automatically and without having to ask for them - copies of all messages in either direction between the President and the Prime Minister ~~sent~~ through the United States Embassy in London, unless of course in any rare case the President feels that the messages are so private that we ought not see them. If we cannot have copies, then paraphrases would do, but copies would be much better and probably mean less trouble for the S.D.

Howe
June 4th, 1941.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

he still knows how to use a message. & I'd ask for it. he has always for what is asked for.

*after a
should be reminded
to do so.*

*See Tel. no. 2629
to Fo at 1/18*