

Mr. John Miller
[Signature]

Churchill - Roosevelt Meeting

6/99/16/41

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 7, 1941.

PERSONAL

My dear Lord Halifax:

In accordance with the request I received from you this morning I am enclosing herewith paraphrases of the two messages of which I spoke and which are dated August 5 and August 6, respectively.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]

Enclosures

The Right Honorable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,

British Ambassador.

PARAPHRASE

Telegram from the American Embassy, London, dated August 5, 1941, 10 p.m., received August 5, 1941, 5:22 p.m.

For Secretary Hull. Most secret and personal.

This afternoon I called at the Foreign Office at the request of the Foreign Secretary who told me that, with regard to the present actions of Mr. Churchill, very clever guess work had been made or a leakage had occurred. Last night at 8:15 the German radio broadcasted the report as originating in Lisbon. Today by putting pieces together the press correspondents in London have reached identical conclusions. Mr. Churchill had foreseen the possibility of a leakage and had prepared a statement before his departure for publication only in that event. In case a statement should have to be made public tomorrow, as foreseen by the Foreign Secretary, the British Government would wish our approval before doing so. Although the British Government hopes that a statement will not have to be made, the Foreign Secretary believes, if it should be necessary to issue such a statement, that it would be preferable to do so tomorrow at the House of Commons, in view of the fact that questions would be asked concerning the absence of Atlee and Mr. Churchill, thus furnishing the occasion for making the statement. The draft statement suggested

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by Mr. Churchill is as follows: "It was agreed that the President of the United States and Mr. Churchill should meet (at the suggestion of the former) in order to discuss the following subjects: methods of U.S. aid to Great Britain, questions of interest to both countries, and a general discussion of the course the war is taking. Accompanying Mr. Churchill are the Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the First Sea Lord and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff. On a vessel somewhere in the Atlantic the above-mentioned officials are holding this meeting. With regard to the date of Mr. Churchill's return or the questions under discussion at this meeting, at the present time nothing further can be stated."

President Roosevelt may wish to issue a similar statement to the American people if it becomes necessary to publish Mr. Churchill's statement in England. I was told by the Foreign Secretary that it would be most useful to him to receive an answer, if he could receive it tomorrow afternoon before four o'clock London time, stating whether we concur in this statement or giving any views which we may wish to express. Mr. Eden stated that, if there is no reply, he would inform the House of Commons that at this time he had nothing to say.

PARAPHRASE

Telegram to London from the Department of State dated August 6, 1941, 3 a.m.

For Ambassador Winant. Most secret and personal.

The President's answer to your telegram of the fifth of August is as follows: "To make any statement at this time is highly inadvisable. That Mr. Churchill is taking a short vacation, in my judgment, is all that need be said. It is especially inadvisable to refer to the officials who are accompanying him. The possibility of an attack by the Germans upon the Prime Minister and his party on their outward and return voyage would be greatly increased if such a statement were published at this time. Say nothing when there is doubt."