

SECRET

Leakage of Information in U.K.

307/1741

Copy to S. Chamberlain - personal.

Mr. Chamberlain. Can the Censorship not prevent the despatch of this sort of message?

S. L. C.

12.9.41



[A 6749/6749/45]

(No. 650.)

Sir,

Foreign Office,

August 25, 1941.

THE United States Ambassador told me to-day that he had received two complaints from Mr. Cordell Hull about which he had telephoned to me on Sunday. Both were concerned with leakages of information from this country to the United States.

2. The first was a United Press despatch which had reached the United States on the 21st August. This reported that "an authoritative source" had said that the President had approved of whatever action His Majesty's Government and Russia might find it necessary to take to purge Persia of Nazi influence. The message had also said the whole subject had been carefully discussed at the recent meeting of the Prime Minister and President Roosevelt. As a result of this message the President and the Secretary of State had both desired the Ambassador to draw my attention to this report, and had instructed him to find out the identity of the source referred to.

3. The second instance was a United Press message of the 22nd August which quoted a reliable source to the effect that within recent weeks the United States Government, in informal talks with the Japanese Government, had suggested the neutralisation of Indo-China and Thailand on a basis not unlike the position of Switzerland. The Japanese answer to this proposal was said to be an evasive negative. These conversations were supposed to have taken place before the Japanese move into Indo-China. Mr. Hull asked the Ambassador to point out to me that this was only one of many instances in which, shortly after information of a confidential character had been given to His Majesty's Government, the United States Government had learnt of stories covering the matter which had emanated from London. Mr. Hull said he had no doubt that I would realise how difficult it was to continue to give confidential information if this was what happened to the messages which were sent to us.

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I am, with great truth and regard,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

Neville Butler

These may be the cause of our difficulty of getting info from Mr. Hull about Japan. or an excuse for it! R.L.

Of course the Americans can blame themselves. But this does not excuse these leakages in London, which ought to be

Sir Ronald Campbell, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Washington.

war-time legislation in force. easier to prevent with

Sir R. Campbell

Mr. Denning (para. 3) P.T.O.

W. G. Langford 10/9

Entered on 307/1741

There is in London a gentleman by the name of
Freddie Kuch, ^{a U.S. citizen} who is U. P. correspondent. His
knowledge is at times quite terrifying and both
the M. I. and the F. O. are rather afraid
of him and regard him as something sinister.
To myself I think he is simply a first class
journalist with an infallible scent for news.

But I suspect that two of his main sources of
information are the Soviet & Chinese Embassies,
and the business about Iran which mentioned
in this desp. may well have come from the former.

There is another bad leak from London to-
day about President Roosevelt's warning to Japan.
I have an uncomfortable feeling that this resulted
from the Sec. of State's recent conversation in London
with Dr. Wellington Koo, who can be trusted to
keep nothing to himself.

J. P. ... 11/9

S. H. Campbell.

Mr. Churchill. S.H.C. 19.9.41.

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Let us have a tel. to F.O. about this,
saying that these leakages tend to result in
our getting no info from Mr. Hull about the
Jap-U.S. comms, reminding F.O. of Mr. Hull's remarks
reported in Green tel. from here, & of his expressed
regret over the P.M.'s ref. to the comms in his broad-
cast after the Atlantic meeting & asking whether the
Censorship cannot prevent ^{to some extent} ~~the~~ a leaky
kind leaving London. This is ^{to some extent} dealt with the incubations of
the distance Mr. Freddie Kuch. R.C. 1579