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TELEGRAM

From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS  
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

IMPORTANT

MOST SECRET

CYPHER

CIRCULAR D. 167

LONDON, May 10th, 1940

Circular D. 167. Most Secret. Following for your Prime Minister, Begins:

Question of the protection of Dutch West Indian Islands of Aruba and Curacao has been for some time under consideration. These are of great strategical importance on account of large oil refineries dealing in bulk output of Venezuelan oil, the supply of which is of vital importance to our war effort. The security of the refineries might be threatened by (a) sabotage, (b) bombardment raid by armed merchant vessel or submarine, (c) attack by raiding parties from similar craft.

Question was discussed today with Dutch Minister and it was agreed that communication should be made to United States Government by His Majesty's Ambassador and Dutch Minister at Washington to the effect that United Kingdom Government have offered<sup>and</sup> Netherlands Government have accepted a small additional force for security purposes, and that in case the United States Government would feel inclined to cooperate with the United Kingdom and Netherlands Governments in this matter, such cooperation would be most welcome to both Governments.

Arrangements are being made for immediate despatch to Curacao of troops from Jamaica. Ends.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950,  
MG 26 J 4, Volume 396, pages C278444-C279232

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