

relations had been accepted largely on the basis of Mr. Churchill's previously expressed view. Now that this view had changed, there was little upon which to base a continuance of relations.

39. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE and the MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE were inclined to favour an early diplomatic break with Vichy.

...

29.

O.D.S.-N.A.R./Vol. 778

Le ministre aux États-Unis au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Minister in United States to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELETYPE WA-939

Washington, May 12, 1942

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. With reference to Wrong's message WA-868 of May 2nd[†] concerning relations with the Vichy Government, I had a discussion of the position with Mr. Hull this morning. He asked that no action should be taken by Canada until after the question of Martinique had been settled. He said that Admiral Robert seemed ready to agree to the United States demands but felt that he must submit them to Laval. Laval had asked for a delay because of the absence from Vichy of Marshal Pétain, and the United States Government had agreed to a delay extending not beyond midnight tomorrow night.

2. I gathered from Mr. Hull that the demands made on Admiral Robert included the immobilization of the naval vessels at Martinique, the landing there of United States personnel to supervise this immobilization, and the dismantling of the wireless station.

3. Mr. Hull confirmed that he had felt a certain irritation over the action of the United Kingdom Government in advising the Canadian Government to terminate their relations with Vichy without prior consultation with him. He feels that none of the interested Governments should move without a preliminary exchange of information. His irritation was directed towards London, not Ottawa. He expressed himself as satisfied with the statement made by Mr. Eden in his speech at Edinburgh on May 8th to the effect that London and Washington were in constant and close consultation on policy towards Vichy and that there was no difference between them over the maintenance of diplomatic relations with Vichy by the United States. He thought, however, that this might have been said publicly some time ago.

4. Wrong learned at the British Embassy today that Mr. Hull told Halifax a few days ago that the joint statement on policy towards Vichy which he had suggested (see your EX-735 of May 1st[†] and our WA-868 of May 2nd) was no longer required, since he had made his proposal on the understanding that a Canadian breach with Vichy was imminent.

5. I hope to discuss the Vichy situation more fully with you during my visit to Ottawa this week.