

copy

7243

December 25, 1941

I.D.

MOST IMMEDIATE

C 288114

Mr. Eden

Viscount Halifax

7.25 p.m. December 25, 1941.

3.34 p.m. December 25, 1941

Addressed to Washington telegram No.
7242 of December 25th, repeated to Ottawa
No. 2256.

My telegram No. 7008.

Admiralty received a telegram from
Admiral Muselier dated December 24th in which
he states that "in compliance with the order
quite recently received from General de Gaulle
and the request of the inhabitants" he had
proceeded on the morning of December 24th to
St. Pierre and rallied the people to Free
France and the Allied Cause with an enthusiastic
reception.

2. This was a complete surprise to us since
General de Gaulle had authorized an assurance to
be given to us on December 17th that no orders
for the operation had been issued and that it
would not be carried out by the Free French
Naval forces. You were informed accordingly
in my telegram under reference.

3. Free French Commissioner for Foreign
Affairs was at once summoned to the Foreign
Office and asked for an explanation. He
admitted General de Gaulle had in fact given
orders for the operation to be effected. His
reason for doing so had been that when he gave
the assurance mentioned in the second paragraph
above/