

Leave of troops at Darwin has been stopped, and consideration is being given cancelling Christmas leave of all troops in camps in Australia.

1416.

28-C(s)

Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM CIRCULAR M.438

London, December 7, 1941

MOST IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET. Following for your Prime Minister. Begins. My immediately preceding telegram Circular M.437.

1. Since possibility remains open that immediate destination of the Japanese convoys is another port in Indo-China, there may still be time for warning to Japan by United States, Dutch and ourselves on lines contemplated in recent exchanges with President Roosevelt. We have therefore thought it desirable to continue preparations for delivery of such a warning in order that we may be in a position to proceed with it if and when the President should give the signal to do so.

2. We have not yet heard whether the President has decided to send message to the Emperor or not. If he has not yet made up his mind his decision may now be influenced by news of sailing of Japanese convoys. We must assume in any event that he may wish to proceed with some form of warning at any moment, in which case warnings from ourselves and the Dutch may be required to follow almost immediately afterwards.

3. It would, we feel, add greatly to impressiveness of warning (if President should wish us to proceed with it) if it could be delivered on behalf of all His Majesty's Governments jointly. We very much hope that His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions will feel able to concur in this course and identify themselves in this manner with warning proposed.

4. In view of the urgency of the matter as explained in paragraph 2, we have thought it desirable to prepare and telegraph to His Majesty's Ambassador at Tokyo a draft note to the Japanese Government conveying a warning in sense agreed to in recent discussions of the President. The text is contained in my immediately following telegram and it will be seen that in the hope that suggestion made in paragraph 3 above will be acceptable, it has been drafted as a joint communication. Sir R. Craigie has been instructed to hold this draft note in reserve pending receipt of further instructions, and it has been explained to him that text as well as form is subject to concurrence of His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions. The draft has been telegraphed