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144

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRET FILE C194463 126 (5) Sub 6 Chron 6
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From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

MOST SECRET & PERSONAL

LONDON, February 23rd, 1944.

CYPHER

CIRCULAR D. 277

Circular D. 277. Most Secret and Personal.

Following for the Prime Minister, Begins:

United States Ambassador in London recently consulted us regarding a proposal that the United States Government should approach the Government of Eire with a request for the removal of Axis Diplomatic representatives in Dublin. He said that the United States Government contemplated addressing a formal note to the Eire Government referring to the declared policy of that Government to be "a friendly neutral" to the United States, and pointing out that owing to the geographical position of Eire the presence there of German and Japanese Diplomatic and Consular representatives afforded facilities for Axis espionage against Allied military operations of vital importance. The United States Ambassador also raised with us the question whether, if we agreed with this proposal, the United Kingdom Government would associate themselves with the proposed United States approach.

We carefully considered the matter and came to the conclusion that while we could not feel confident that the request would be acceded to, it would be desirable to support the United States initiative. Obviously if the request were met the result would be very advantageous, while even if it were refused no damage to our interests