

Mr. Stone telephoned to me at about 8 p.m. to ask for the latest news, so that he could relay this to the Prime Minister in Montreal. I gave him an outline of developments. He telephoned later in the evening to give me the text of a reply which had been sent verbally to Mr. Moffat in Ottawa.

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Note: The chief explanation that Mr. Atherton offered in reply to my complaint that the State Department had tried to commit us to a policy just in advance of the Prime Minister's visit was that the character of the press despatches coming in from London was such that they could not leave them without an immediate answer. He made no reply when I remarked that one effect of the State Department's action was obviously to magnify the importance of the incident, which was in itself an insignificant episode in the course of the war.

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