

(C O P Y)

C 283293

FROM: THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE
NETHERLANDS, LONDON

TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA

MOST IMMEDIATE

MOST SECRET

CYPHER

No. 8

No. 8. Most Secret. Following for the Prime Minister,
Begins:

Summary of report on my visit to Vichy.

1. Marshal Petain still alert and hoping for a British
victory.

2. Present atmosphere of tension between France and Great
Britain should be maintained as smoke screen, behind which
secret collaboration between France and the Commonwealth might
be possible.

3. French military authorities preparing, in occupied and
unoccupied France, for any eventuality. They are also organising
the defence of Colonies and will apply for our support in material
and men at a later stage.

4. Petain and Admiral Darlan stated no danger of their fleet
falling into German or Italian hands. Large number of ships now
out of German reach in African ports. Few units in Toulon could
leave in very short order or be scuttled there in few moments.

5. Petain and Darlan also declare that they are in a
position to defend French naval bases, which in case of risk
would be handed over to us before the Germans could take hold
of them.

6. It is general conviction in French official circles,
and this opinion is also that of the public at large, that