

February 24th, 1944.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRET FILE
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Sub. 6.....Chron 6

Dominions Office telegram D.277 of February 23rd and Mr. Kearney's telegram from Dublin, No.12 of February 24th, relate to a formal approach made by the United States Minister in Dublin on instructions from Washington on February 21st requesting the Irish Government to expel German and Japanese representatives from Dublin. Mr. de Valera has suggested to Mr. Kearney that we should seek to secure the withdrawal of the U.S. note and of the supporting note presented on the following day by the United Kingdom representative in Dublin. This is a curious suggestion which I think we cannot entertain and I enclose a draft telegram to Mr. Kearney in this sense.

The cause of Mr. de Valera's anger seems to arise from the formality of the approach and not from its substance. Why these particular tactics were adopted in bringing pressure to bear on Ireland is not clear. It may be that they wished in Washington to compel de Valera to go formally on record as refusing this gesture of support. There may have been some domestic political motive in the United States. The British in any case cannot have been sorry to see the U.S. taking the lead in squeezing Ireland. It is not a comfortable situation for de Valera, but even if we felt confident that we could help him out of it I consider that we should not try to do so

McR