

light of Laval's recent statement of policy and of the decision of the Union Government to sever relations with Vichy.

2. You will have noted that Laval repeatedly said that he would seek a policy of understanding and reconciliation with Germany, and that he went out of his way to deliver a bitter attack upon Great Britain.

3. The further clarification of the situation for which Mr. Welles asked you to wait has thus, it seems to us, now been given, and our advice would be that the time has come for the Canadian Government to terminate their relations with Vichy. The maintenance of these relations is only really of benefit to Vichy.

4. We are apprehensive lest Laval whose skill is remarkable may succeed in persuading the United States Government to maintain an attitude of tolerance towards him. We have accordingly instructed Halifax to put in a word of warning at Washington, although we are not actually pressing the United States Government to break off relations for the present at any rate.

5. There is of course the further disadvantage that Canada would be the only part of the Empire still maintaining relations with Vichy.

27.

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

TELEGRAM CIRCULAR D. 225

London, April 29, 1942

SECRET. His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington reported discussion about Vichy policy with United States Secretary of State on April 26th. Secretary of State described Laval as "unadulterated Hitlerism" and received favourably suggestion that he might make some counter statement to Laval's speech. His Majesty's Ambassador is of opinion that there is no danger of Hull being beguiled by Laval. As regards public opinion, Ambassador has no doubt that Secretary of State will continue to make plain United States Government's view of which recall of Admiral Leahy is clear expression.

Conversation then passed to question of United States representation at Vichy. Secretary of State felt it important that they should be in position to defend themselves against any domestic criticism which might be based on the ground that the United States were maintaining relations with Vichy against what appeared to be general view of British Commonwealth. He suggested that we should agree to some kind of joint or separate statements on lines that whilst both Governments were at one in their view of present Vichy Government they were also united as regards United States maintaining contact. His Majesty's Ambassador has been informed that we favour maintenance of United States relations with Vichy for following reasons (which unfortunately cannot be used in public)

- (1) Provision of intelligence;
- (2) Maintenance of status quo in French North Africa until time comes for United Nations to change it