

POOR PRINT
Epreuve illisible

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TELEGRAM

From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

-2-

LONDON,

(4). It would be impossible to take the action contemplated in (2) above without the knowledge of Italy. It would therefore be advisable to make an informal approach to the Italian Government in order to explain to them precisely what the French and United Kingdom Governments have in mind and to ascertain their reactions before initiating action on the lines contemplated. This informal approach should be made forthwith by His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome to Count Ciano. He would emphasize the preparatory and defensive character of the steps proposed.

(5). Pending the result of this approach no fresh staff conversations should be initiated with the Balkan powers but this should not prevent the French General Staff from continuing any normal staff conversations already in progress.

(6). It would be appropriate to initiate diplomatic action in Balkan capitals through the Turkish Government. The first step should therefore be to enlist the cooperation of that Government. In this connection the Council took note that the Turkish Secretary General was to have a discussion with His Majesty's Minister at Sofia on his return journey to Angora and that this would form a convenient opportunity for considering what further diplomatic action could be taken in the Balkan Capitals to build up a common Balkan front and that results of this discussion would be communicated to the French Government as early as possible.