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giving publicity to an unsuccessful diplomatic manoeuvre from
which none of the Governments concerned can get any glory.

Mac

I am sure De Valera's fears that some ulterior motive under-
lay the United States-United Kingdom initiative are groundless. I
cannot, at this stage of the war, see any military objective which
would begin to justify the occupation of an unfriendly Ireland.
I would say rather that the United Kingdom and the United
States now feel in a position to put pressure on the remaining
neutrals to complete the isolation of the Axis countries, and
perhaps shorten the war. The diplomatic pressure presently being
put upon Argentina, Sweden, Portugal, Spain and Turkey probably
provides a clue to this latest United Kingdom-United States approach
to the Irish Government. De Valera's fear that it is a prelude
to invasion seems to be groundless.
I agree with Keeney that we should not endeavour to
secure the withdrawal of the United States and United Kingdom troops
but I think there is a good deal of merit in his suggestion that we
might urge the United Kingdom and the United States to keep secret
the fact that they have made an unsuccessful diplomatic approach to
the Irish Government. I cannot see any advantage whatever in

(over)