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20 Dec. 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

SECRET

C238355

In conversation this morning with Mr. Bonneau, he gave me some information about General de Gaulle's conversations in Moscow, which supplements that contained in Paris telegram 523 of December 18th.

1. The French and Soviet Governments were of one mind on the need for a "hard peace". Every possible precaution should be taken to see that a defeated Germany could not begin to disturb the peace of Europe. To this end Stalin and de Gaulle agreed that Germany's western frontier should be the Rhine. Bonneau did not know what sort of political regime was envisaged for the Rhineland. He said that the French and Russians both agreed on the necessity of continuing international supervision of the Ruhr Basin to prevent its heavy industry from ever being used as a basis of German rearmament. About Germany's eastern frontier, Stalin said to de Gaulle, as he had said to Churchill, that he was prepared to move the Polish frontier westward to the line of the Oder from Stettin at its mouth to the River Neisse. The Oder has two tributaries from the south, each called the Neisse, but I should think it likely that the one referred to is the most easterly river which flows into the Oder above Breslau. If this is the line chosen, Upper Silesia would be transferred to Poland. Breslau itself would remain in German territory.

2. In conversation about world security organisation, General de Gaulle and Stalin agreed that the Dumbarton Oaks framework should be completed. De Gaulle said that he thought it was vital for the security of France and for the effective functioning of a world organisation that the Middle Powers should be effectively associated with the enforcement of peace. The Russians indicated that for their part they did not dissent from this judgment. Bonneau did not know whether they had given any consideration to the means of realising this principle within the Dumbarton Oaks proposals.

In this connection I note on the ticker this morning a quotation from a Soviet newspaper insisting on the importance the Soviet Union attached to the realisation of the scheme for world security outlined in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, adding that these proposals were not perfect and doubtless would be found susceptible of amendment and improvement.

*W.L.M.*