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TELEGRAM C 283257

From THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA IN GREAT BRITAIN
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

CYPHER

LONDON, June 24th, 1940

NO. 952

No. 952. Personal for the Prime Minister, Begins:

United Kingdom is at present considering its relations to the existing French Government at Bordeaux. French Ambassador in London is using his influence against the recognition of the French National Committee, the formation of which was announced by General de Gaulle in a broadcast last night. He contends that de Gaulle has not the personal prestige in France to form a Provisional Government that would carry weight. This may be so, but the United Kingdom Government can hardly continue relations with the French Government which has broken its pledged word as an Ally, placed a large part of French territory under German control, and surrendered a great quantity of military material which will now be used against Great Britain. It was hoped that Herriot and Reynaud might come to England and assist in the formation of the French National Committee pledged to cooperation with Great Britain in the prosecution of the war. Neither of these men, however, is willing to leave France at the moment.

Despite encouraging reports in the press, Foreign Office telegrams reveal a serious deterioration in the French Mediterranean Colonies. French Army in Syria, however, seems likely to remain staunch. You will have learned in Dominions Office telegram of present position as regards French Fleet. Everything is being done by the Royal Navy to gain possession of as many French ships as possible. French Admirals, however, are, in many cases, being far from helpful and a rapid growth

not received

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950,
MG 26 J 4, Volume 402, pages C282783-C283503

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