

POOR PRINT
Epreuve illisible

"R"
TELEGRAM

C 284877

From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA
MOST SECRET AND PERSONAL

CYPHER

LONDON, December 23, 1939.

UNNUMBERED

Unnumbered. Most Secret and Personal.

Following for your Prime Minister, Begins:

Principal object of the meeting of the Supreme War Council in Paris last Tuesday was to consider steps which could be taken to meet the contingency of aggression in the Balkans by Germany and/or Russia.

The conclusions reached were as follows:-

(1). It is most important that the Balkan countries and in particular Turkey, Yugo-Slavia, Greece and Roumania, should be encouraged and assisted to form themselves into a bloc with a view to coordinating their resources to meet German and/or Russian aggression.

(2). The above encouragement and assistance should for the present take the form of:-

(a) Diplomatic action.

(b) Supply of war material from Franco-British sources.

(c) Preparation for measures to make possible in case of necessity, ultimate intervention by Franco-British armed forces on a limited scale: for example, conduct of conversations between military staffs, the organization of bases, et cetera.

(3). There can be no question of the despatch of any Franco-British armed forces even on a limited scale unless Italy is at least a definitely benevolent neutral. The attitude of Italy is in fact an overriding consideration and it is essential to avoid offending her susceptibilities.