

I should be very glad to have your views on recent developments in French position and in particular to know whether you feel that a useful purpose is still being served by our maintaining Dupuy as Chargé d'Affaires to Vichy and continuing to receive a French Minister here. Ends.

23.

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Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM 91

London, April 21, 1942

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Your telegram No. 115. Following from Prime Minister for Prime Minister, Begins: Thank you for your message about the Vichy Minister in Ottawa. We note that you are in touch with Washington in the matter and that United States authorities have suggested that it would be helpful if you could continue to receive the French Minister. In all the circumstances we should agree if you thought that the best course would be to allow the present position in regard to Vichy representation in Canada and Canadian representation at Vichy to continue unchanged until the position becomes clearer.

We understand that General Smuts is anxious to get rid of the Vichy Minister in South Africa. It seems to us that there would be no serious disadvantage in the adoption of a different policy in Canada and South Africa on this matter. We are advising General Smuts of your views and United States views as set out in your telegram and are also letting him know that we for our part would have no objection if he thought it best to ask immediately for the recall of the Vichy Minister in South Africa. Ends.

24.

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Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre aux États-Unis
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister in United States

TELETYPE EX-650

Ottawa, April 23, 1942

MOST IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Reference WA-747[†]. The Prime Minister will be asked when the House meets this afternoon whether he is prepared to say anything about Canadian relations with France. He plans to say simply that the question is a grave and critical one, that he is in close communication with the United Kingdom and United States Governments and that he will make a statement to the House on the matter when it reassembles on Tuesday, April 28th.

He would like you to see Mr. Hull or Mr. Welles today and explain to them that the pressure on the Government to break off relations with Vichy is very great and will undoubtedly be increased as news of South Africa's action becomes known. He himself doubts whether action on our part can be deferred