

POOR PRINT  
Epreuve illisible

R  
TELEGRAM

284862 <sup>UK.</sup>

U From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS  
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

IMMEDIATE

LONDON, November 21st, 1939.

MOST SECRET

CYPHER

Circular D.96

Part 1.

Circular D.96. Most Secret. Following for  
your Prime Minister, Begins:

Methods now adopted by the enemy whereby mines are released indiscriminately and no warning is given as to position and extent of mine fields are in direct conflict with international undertakings. These methods, following upon the sinking of ships by submarines without warning in circumstances of great inhumanity, are a culmination of a series of violations of International Instruments to which Germany is a party. It has therefore become urgently necessary to decide on steps which should be taken to deal with the situation thus created.

After consideration of all issues involved in the war, Cabinet have this morning decided that illegal action by Germany, with its resultant heavy toll on civilian lives and its effect on our own and neutral trade alike, fully justify a step which a strict adherence of enemy to recognized rules of warfare would have rendered inappropriate, viz. the forcible restriction, so far as possible, of all German exports. The case for such action, which was taken during the last war in consequence of illegitimate use of the submarine weapon, is now regarded as even stronger in view of the fact that <sup>in addition</sup> to similar submarine action in this war further illegal action is being taken in the use of mines.

End of Part I, Part II follows immediately.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS