

C194451

JWH/LF  
14.4.43.

NOTE FOR MR. ROBERTSON:

*Wm*  
*Re. Churchill's statement*  
*Hearad p. 2127*

The last statement made in the United Kingdom House of Commons on the Irish naval bases was a brief reference by Mr. Churchill in his review of the war situation on April 9, 1941. At that time he said: "I hope that eventually the inhabitants of the sister Island may realise that it is as much in their interest as in ours that their ports and air fields should be available for the naval and air forces which must operate ever further into the Atlantic."

Since then, questions concerning the bases have several times been raised but each time a Government spokesman has said that no further statement would be made.

Mr. Kearney indicated in a despatch from Dublin of February 15, 1943, that he was discussing with the British High Commissioner and the United States Minister the advisability of presenting to Mr. De Valera a request for use of the bases, signed by President Roosevelt and representatives of the other United Nations. No further word has been received concerning the negotiations, which were being delayed until the United Kingdom High Commissioner discovered whether the Admiralty still considers the bases important.

J.W.N