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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

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giving publicity to an unsuccessful diplomatic manoeuvre from
 which none of the Governments concerned can get any glory.

I am sure De Valera's fears that some inferior motive under-
 lay the United States-United Kingdom initiative are groundless. I
 cannot, at this stage of the war, see any military objective which
 would begin to justify the occupation of an unfriendly Ireland.

I would say rather that the United Kingdom and the United
 States now feel in a position to put pressure on the remaining
 neutrals to complete the isolation of the Axis countries, and
 perhaps shorten the war. The diplomatic pressure presently being
 put upon Argentina, Sweden, Portugal, Spain and Turkey probably
 provides a clue to this latest United Kingdom-United States approach
 to the Irish Government. De Valera's fear that it is a prelude
 to invasion seems to be excessive.

I agree with Keirney that we should not endeavour to
 secure the withdrawal of the United States and United Kingdom notes,
 but I think there is a good deal of merit in his suggestion that we
 might urge the United Kingdom and the United States to keep secret
 the fact that they have made an unsuccessful diplomatic approach to
 the Irish Government. I cannot see any advantage whatever in

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