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RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

Dominions Office Telegram No. 198 of July 9th

References in this telegram are as follows:

Paragraph 1. Letter from High Commissioner for Canada July 4.  
This corresponds to our telegram No. 877 of July 3rd.

Paragraph 2. D. 306 of July 4 states that Circular C.53(below) does not mean that General de Gaulle has been recognized as head or organizer of an alternative government, or that we have ceased to have dealings with the French Chargé d'Affaires in London who still represents the Bordeaux Government. de Gaulle for the present merely head of military organization.

Paragraph 3. Circular C.55 of July 2nd reads as follows:  
"It is now considered that telegrams to and from French possessions can be permitted to proceed provided that passing of telegrams is in British interest".

Last paragraph. Circular D.285 of June 24th sets forth instructions issued by Admiralty and which United Kingdom will be grateful if other British Commonwealth Governments could adopt. Begins.  
"French ships are not to be allowed to sail from any British ports. Force should not be used unless an actual attempt to sail is made. If necessary you should explain to French masters that in view of signing of the Armistice by the French Government, it is necessary to hold shipping until the situation in the French Empire is clarified. Ends.

Same paragraph. Circular D.301, of July 1st, sets forth amending instructions to above issued by Admiralty. Begins.  
"You have discretion to allow French ships to sail in any exceptional case where you think it desirable in the Allied interest, for example, ships engaged in trade with neighbouring French possessions, provided you are satisfied that intended voyage will be carried out. For your information, by a clause in the Armistice terms French merchant ships outside France are to be recalled, or, if it is not possible, ordered to neutral ports. Ends.