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11. At first blush one might be inclined to think that, putting the two articles together, they should be interpreted to mean that the Irish Government were anticipating an approach for bases, and it might not look with disfavour in view of impending difficulties with regard to supplies, in acceding to such a request, but I do not think that any such speculation is founded on fact.

12. Sir John Maffey told me that a few hours before the Portugal news was released he informed Mr. de Valera of what was going to take place. Mr. de Valera's first reaction was one of disappointment, and he said "I did not think that Salazar would do such a thing."

13. Mr. de Valera said that Salazar must have yielded under pressure. Sir John informed him that he was familiar with all the correspondence leading up to the event and that no pressure had been used. (Please see fly leaf).

14. Sir John Maffey and Mr. Gray are firmly convinced that Mr. de Valera's reply to the proposed note by the President of the United States of America will be a refusal. In my opinion, a refusal by Mr. de Valera is by no means a foregone conclusion.

15. Notwithstanding my telegram No.53 of today's date which I sent you, I shall, regardless of your reply thereto, refrain from discussing the subject matter thereof until you have received this letter. I would, therefore, ask you to please acknowledge it by cable, and at the same time inform me on what lines I shall proceed with the interview, if at all.

16. I am rushing this letter to catch tomorrow morning's boat, otherwise it will be delayed for two days, and I have not had an opportunity of carefully revising it.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) John D. Kearney

N.A. Robertson, Esq.,  
Under-Secretary of State  
for External Affairs,  
Ottawa.