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TELEGRAM

283287

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

SECRET

LONDON, September 7th, 1940.

CYPHER

CIRCULAR D. 456

*Relations with France*

Circular D. 456. Secret. Following for your Prime Minister, Begins:

France.

Paragraph 1 of my telegram Circular D. 449. In reply to French Government's note, His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid has been informed we agree to discussions continuing between neutral French Ambassador at Madrid but could not agree to French Government's qualification that we should abstain from "interference" with French overseas possessions. We are pointing out that decisions of certain Colonies to join Allied cause have been taken freely by local authorities and populations; that it is natural for us to extend economic assistance to territories willing to help us; that, while our economic policy in regard to different French Colonies must depend on the attitude of each Colony to ourselves, it cannot be called "interference". We hope thus to play for time and do not wish that initiative in breaking off relations should come from us. Ends.

*Not*  
*read to the Chamber on session or relations with France*

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS

Rec'd Ottawa, 1:30 a.m.