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COLOURED PAPER
PAPIER DE COULEUR

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TELEGRAM

284829 *7002*

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

MOST SECRET & PERSONAL

CYPHER

LONDON, 18th September, 1939.

UNNUMBERED

Unnumbered message. Most Secret and Personal.

Following for your Prime Minister, Begins:

1. You will have noticed that no details have been included in daily Circular D.W. telegrams as to the presence of United Kingdom troops in France. Explanation is as follows.

2. Such mention of British troops in France as has appeared in the press was due to the publication in Paris of certain information on the subject owing to failure to exercise adequate censorship in France. Since secrecy had been lost to this extent, press here were allowed to make a similar statement.

3. Knowledge of details of movements, however, is being strictly limited to those who are actually engaged in dealing with the movements in question and those whose duties actually require them to have such knowledge. The reason for this is that any disclosures, even of most general character, might afford information to the enemy which would gravely imperil our forces. In 1914 the German Government were unaware of the presence of British troops until they found them engaged in action. In view of the greater risk of air attack the need for secrecy is still stronger today.

4. Limitations referred to in paragraph 3 above are