

Cable, Winston Churchill to FDR, April 12, 1942. Replying to FDR's March 18 letter (at right) Churchill expresses his 'entire agreement in principle' with Roosevelt's proposals. Note that he refers to himself as 'Former Naval Person.' When he and FDR began corresponding in 1939, Churchill was Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty. After becoming Prime Minister, he enjoyed signing his messages to Roosevelt this way.

CSDW

DI 3  
filed 350/12  
JMW

CABLEGRAM

Received at the War Department Message Center  
Room 3441 Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

April 12, 1942

10:17 A. M.

~~SECRET~~

From LONDON

To POTUS

Copies furnished as noted:

No. 50, April 12th, 1942.

Former Naval Person to President personal  
and secret No 68.

I have read with earnest attention your  
masterly document about future of the war and the  
great operations proposed. I am in entire agreement  
in principle with all you propose, and so are the Chiefs  
of Staff. We must of course meet day to day emergencies  
in the east and far east while preparing for the main  
stroke. All the details are being rapidly examined and  
preparations where action is clear have already begun.  
The whole matter will be discussed on evening of Tuesday,  
the 14th, by Defense Committee, to which Harry and Marshall  
are coming, and I have no doubt that I shall be able to  
send you our complete agreement.

I may say that I thought the proposals made  
for an interim operation in certain contingencies this  
year met the difficulties and uncertainties in an abso-  
lutely sound manner. If, as our experts believe, we

*Declassified  
Published in Foreign Relations  
of the U.S., 1942, Vol. 1, General  
British Commonwealth, The  
Far East.*

~~SECRET~~

Action Copy

4-27-60  
Paul L. Spicer

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~~SECRET~~

\_\_\_\_\_ M.

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

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Page 2 No. 50 from London, April 12, 1942

can carry this whole plan through successfully, it will be one of the grand events in all the history of war.

About 3 AM this morning, the 12th, when contrary to your instructions Harry and I were still talking, the text of your message to me about India came through from London. I could not decide such a matter without convening the Cabinet, which was not physically possible till Monday. Meanwhile Cripps had already left and all the explanations have been published by both sides. In these circumstances, Harry undertook to telephone to you explaining the position, but owing to atmospheric he could not get through. He is going to telephone you this afternoon and also cable you a report.

You know the weight which I attach to everything you say to me, but I did not feel I could take responsibility for the defence of India if everything has again to be thrown into the melting pot at this critical

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

\_\_\_\_\_ M.

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

Copies furnished as noted:

Page 3 No. 50 from London, April 12, 1942  
juncture. That I am sure would be the view of  
Cabinet and of Parliament. As your telegram was  
addressed to former Naval Person I am keeping it  
as purely private, and I do not propose to bring it  
before the Cabinet officially unless you tell me  
you wish this done. Anything like a serious dif-  
ference between you and me would break my heart and  
surely deeply injure both our countries at the height  
of this terrible struggle.

Prime

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UNCLASSIFIED**

~~SECRET~~

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