

H.E.

In order to secure maximum expedition and to avoid treading on any Department's toes the best procedure seems to <sup>be to</sup> embody F.O. tel. No 1945 in a letter to the President, with copies for Col. Knox and Mr. Welles.

X In giving the copy to Col. Knox, H.E. might suggest that N.A. should discuss details with the Navy Dept.

The 2 last sentences of para. 1 have been omitted from the draft letter as both are more suitable for oral treatment. The second is of course highly important.

Mr H. Miller Jr  
N.A. ↓ Some let raise question of American crews on we have all the over ships. JMB 18/8.

prob. X Yes. But not before the President has given the Navy Department authority to go ahead -

P.S. Over

I suggest that no mention be made of possibility of manning with Australian or New Zealand crews which might be construed as making the matter less urgent than it really is -

The question of American Naval personnel & disembarking will have to be approached with utmost caution - I feel that the Navy Department is by no means whole hearted in the surrender of the ships & will oppose the surrender of any ratings with vigour -

~~19/8~~ 19/8

I agree with the above and particularly that we should say nothing about personnel until we have got the destroyers

M.B.  
19/8

M.B.

According to you Ke. B last night, you want N.A. to take up these points direct with Navy Dept - this presumably means that it is unnecessary to write to the President.

But do you want N.A

MINUTE SHEET.

Reference.....

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NA to stand ~~down~~ this low. or

immediately after his exchange

of notes has been fixed up.

in  
20.8.

M