

Br. interests in Belgium, etc 1169/10/40.



*Copy E.O. ref. - 11
in P.L. No. 5374
June 11, 1940
MR. E.O.*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1940

Rec. - 11/12.

Excellency:

-9

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's note no. 234 of May 27, 1940, inquiring whether the Government of the United States, which at the request of the British Government has already taken over the representation of British interests in Germany and in certain German-occupied territories, would agree to undertake the protection of British persons, property and interests in Italy should hostilities break out between the United Kingdom and Italy.

I am happy to assure you of this Government's willingness to assume the protection of British interests in Italy in the contingency you mention. Instructions to this effect have been sent to the American Embassy at

Rome

His Excellency

The Right Honorable

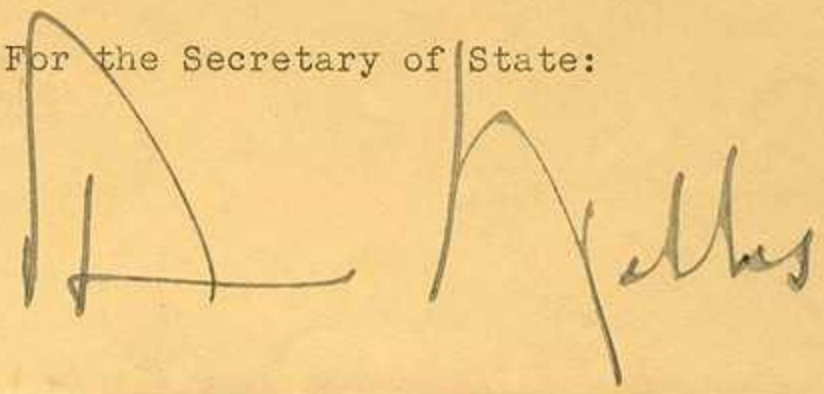
The Marquess of Lothian, C. H.,

British Ambassador.

Rome, and every appropriate effort will be made to extend to British nationals and interests such protection as may be possible within the limitations of and subject to the reservations imposed by the circumstances of modern warfare.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:



704.4165/6

