

Ex. Ind. 1442  
of 15th March 1941.

When I showed this telegram this afternoon to Mr. Dunn he was particularly interested by paragraph 16 which referred to a proposal that the British and Norwegian merchant ships now held in French ports should be exchanged against the French merchant ships in the hands of the British authorities. Mr. Dunn said that this fitted in rather well with the State Department's own idea which was that the question of the British ships in Moroccan ports could be treated separately from the bigger question of the supply of food to French North Africa. He wondered therefore if we could find out rather more about this proposal, by whom it had been made and in what position it was now. I do not think that we have any information on the subject in the Chancery and unless Mr. Helm has any perhaps we had better telegraph to London.

Incidentally Mr. Dunn asked whether we had any information here about M. Dupuy and his abilities. From what the United States Chargé d'Affairs at Vichy had said the State Department were inclined to think that sometimes M. Dupuy took rather too optimistic a view and attached too much importance to remarks made to him by the French authorities. He was rather inclined, the State Department feared, to treat as "assurances" statements which were not necessarily regarded as binding by the French authorities.

*[Handwritten signature]*

March 18th, 1941

FRHM:DH

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1295/1

*Mr. Helm* we have none.  
*am*  
19/3

*Mr. Peake* - did you know

*Loupme in Paris?*

Yes, tho' not well. My private & personal inclination would be not to trust him too much. I would say that he is more interested in



in the effect he is making, on the other man, than in what the other man is really thinking.

It shows also he remembered that ~~it is~~ D. is a French Canadian, and that French Canadians always like to cut a dash with the French, while the French in their turn are always ready to cozen or flatter the French Canadians. I should think that Marshal Petain would use D. to the ut most to extract concessions through him, but I should be surprised if any ~~other~~ subject would bring back an impression like D's.

D is not discreet, & leaked badly to the press not long ago & caused me much embarrassment

CS

I spoke in this sense to Mr. D. this aft. He thought it a good appreciation of D.

MSB 26(3).

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.