




*Mark*

*Adm. Southwell  
Attaches to Sec. *

*with 40/17/41*

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

*17. R. 9. 6. 41*

June 8, 1941

My dear Lord Halifax:

I am sending you herewith for your personal and confidential information a paraphrase of a message addressed to the President by Mr. Churchill and received last evening.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

*rec'd from  
at 1/17.*

His Excellency  
The Right Honorable  
The Viscount Halifax,  
British Ambassador.

S E C R E T

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Dated June 7, 1941

A. In order to prevent further German penetration we enter Syria in some force tomorrow. The attitude of local French troops will have a very material effect upon the success of this effort. A prominent but not foremost part will be taken by de Gaulle's Free French outfit. A proclamation to the Arabs offering in the name of France complete independence and opportunity to form either three or one or three in one free Arab states is being issued by de Gaulle. A treaty somewhat on the Anglo-Egyptian model will fix the relations of these states with France, safeguarding established interest. The designation to be given General Catroux will be French Delegate and Plenipotentiary rather than High Commissioner.

B. Vichy's reaction to what may happen is something I cannot foretell. Of course, they may retaliate on Gibraltar or Freetown, but I do not myself think they will do much worse than they are now doing. If you would keep your pressure upon them, I should be most grateful. Except for our determination to win the war, we have no political interests at all in Syria.

C. Harriman is seeing your son tomorrow before leaving and I shall see him myself at luncheon Monday, I hope. My grateful thanks for letting Harriman take this trip.

S E C R E T