

Iceland: 6109/43/41

SECRET

July 3rd, 1941.

My dear Welles,

-/41  
I lost no time in reporting to London what you said to me in our conversations about Iceland on July 1st. Among other things I told the Foreign Office that you had explained that the President would not wish actually to publish anything more than the texts of the two messages exchanged between the President and the Iceland Prime Minister, although he would no doubt develop the matter in his press conference. I added that you anticipated that the statements would probably be issued here on the morning of Saturday, July 5th, though

this/

The Honourable  
Sumner Welles,  
Acting Secretary of State  
of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.

FRHM:HK

this was subject to later confirmation.

-/42

I have now had a reply from London saying that the Foreign Office feel that it is very important for the people in London in handling the publicity there to know

(1) Exactly when and how the two messages are to be released in Washington.

(2) What line the President proposes to take in speaking to the press conference.

(3) Whether there are any points which the President would wish the British authorities to avoid or to emphasise when handling the matter in London.

The Foreign Office say that they would be very grateful for any information on these points as long as possible beforehand.

I should therefore be very much

obliged/

obliged if you could let me know what I should say to the Foreign Office in reply to these three specific questions, and if in particular you could tell me the latest position about the probable time of publication of the statements in Washington. In view of the holiday tomorrow, it would be a great help if you could let me have an answer sometime today.

(SGD) HALIFAX