

Date on Document: May 29, 1944

Description: Letter from General Eisenhower to Prime Minister Winston Churchill. General Eisenhower is asking Churchill to maintain the diplomatic ban and military securities set on Great Britain until several days passed D-Day to hopefully keep up the ruse that Operation NEPTUNE is the main attack.

Eisenhower, Dwight D., Pre-Presidential Papers, 1916-52; Principal File; Box No. 22

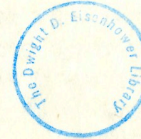
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DOD DIR. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
NE by RMB Date 11/15/66 29 May 1944

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I have your note of 27th May transmitting a Minute by the Foreign Secretary concerning relaxation of the ban on diplomatic communications. I realize fully the difficulties and inconveniences which this move to preserve military security has caused the several ministries concerned, and I am deeply grateful for your support in this matter. I realize also that the entire burden of these security measures has been borne by the British Government and public, and that the decision whether this burden is to be borne for a longer period in the interest of continuing security will be influenced by factors of which I know very little.

However, I must point out that it is my own view and the opinion of all my principal subordinates that the lifting of the ban will indicate to the enemy that our major effort has at last been launched. It is reasonable that he will then deduce the fact that from that moment he is safe in concentrating his forces to repel the assault we have made.

As you know, it has been one of my main preoccupations to persuade the enemy that our assault is to be made on a wider front than is in fact the case, and that our first assault is to be merely the preliminary to the main battle. I think that we have so far been reasonably successful in imposing this thought on the enemy command, and, for my part, I am extremely loath to surrender the advantage we have thus far gained unless this is absolutely unavoidable.

It is possible that from other means at his disposal the enemy may appreciate that our NEPTUNE assault is in fact the main attack. If he does so, I think the fact will become apparent very quickly, and I should then have no hesitation in recommending to you that the diplomatic ban be lifted at once, and that other restrictive measures on the population be relaxed.

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