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8 February 1946COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE

We had a meeting this morning with Byrnes, Peterson, Leahy, Sowers, McCormick and Swedberg, on exchange of communications intelligence (cryptanalysis, etc.) with the British. The question was raised as to whether we should go all-out with the British on this exchange, the view being held by some that to do so would be against the commercial interests of the United States on the theory that the British would not hesitate to make use of commercial information to forward the interests of British business. Captain Swedberg, speaking to this point, said that Sir Edward Travis had the approval of his government to make a definite commitment that the British would not do so.

Byrnes gave it as his opinion that we could not be in the position of doubting the good faith of Britain. He said he was confident that so long as Bevin was in his post as Foreign Minister there would be no possibility of such a breach. He said that he could not conceive of a case arising where such a promise might not be lived up to completely through no fault of the Foreign Office but as long as Mr. Bevin was in the Foreign Office he didn't believe this could happen. He said that Bevin had lived up completely and wholeheartedly to his agreements -- he had debated vigorously and sometimes harshly before entering into them, but having once committed himself he would carry out his contracts to the full.

JM:COO
2-3-46