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CAPTAIN CLARKE.

Last night after a long meeting on various papers for the forthcoming meeting of the Supreme War Council, the Directors of Plans discussed the possibility of meeting the British Military Representatives to talk over the method by which the French should be brought in to the preparation of this major appreciation. After some discussion the fact emerged that the Directors of Plans were unlikely to be able to spare the time to meet the British Military Representatives this week. At the same time they realised fully that the British Military Representatives were anxious to start work and of course if the French are to be brought in it was desirable that there should be no delay.

2. The Directors of Plans accordingly agreed to sit on at the same meeting and consider the method by which the French should be brought in, although they appreciated the fact that it would have been better if the British Military Representatives had been present.

3. I think I can best sum up the Directors of Plans ideas by quoting to you the conclusions recorded at last night's meeting:-

"THE COMMITTEE considered the method by which the French might be brought into the preparation of the appreciation on Major Strategy.

After some discussion, it was agreed:-

(a) To invite the British Military Representatives to hand to the French the British framework for the appreciation as set out in Paper No. J.P.(40) 56 (S), with one amendment to read as follows:-

Add a new Section -

"VII.A. Broad review of German Strategy."

(b) That in handing this framework to the French the British Military Representatives should be invited to:-

(i) Inform the French that a major appreciation on these lines is being prepared in the Chiefs of Staff organisation.

(ii) Invite the French Representatives to consider the general framework and put forward any suggestions as to amplification.

(iii) Invite the French Representatives to consider the preparation of a similar appreciation.

(iv) Suggest that these appreciations should be prepared in parallel, the French preparing one appreciation and the

British another.

- (v) Suggest that in the course of the preparati  
of these appreciations there should be  
a free exchange of factual information  
in the Allied Military Committee with a  
view to ensuring that the appreciations  
are prepared on agreed facts.
- (vi) Suggest that drafts of each appreciation  
should be exchanged at appropriate stages
- (c) To instruct the Secretary to inform the Briti  
Military Representatives accordingly.

4. The above of course would appear to dispose of the  
meeting suggested in paragraph 3 of J.P.(40) 63. I  
quite sure, however, that if the British Military  
Representatives particularly want to discuss the  
procedure proposed before they initiate action with the  
French, the Directors of Plans will meet them, but I  
honestly don't see how it is going to be done this week.

26th March, 1940.

*A. T. Bawell. jms*