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SECRET.

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W.M. (43)

123rd Conclusions.

WAR CABINET 123 (43).

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the War Cabinet held at 10 Downing Street, S.W. 1, on Monday, 6th September, 1943, at 12 NOON.

Present :

The Right Hon. ANTHONY EDEN, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
(in the Chair).

The Right Hon. Sir JOHN ANDERSON, M.P., Lord President of the Council. The Right Hon. HERBERT MORRISON, M.P., Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister of Home Security.

The Right Hon. VISCOUNT HALIFAX,
His Majesty's Ambassador to the
United States of America.

The following were also present :

The Right Hon. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.	The Right Hon. VISCOUNT CRANBORNE, Lord Privy Seal.
The Right Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty.	The Right Hon. Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS, K.C., M.P., Minister of Aircraft Production.
Sir ORME SARGENT, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Air Chief Marshal Sir CHARLES F. A. PORTAL, Chief of the Air Staff.
Vice-Admiral Sir NEVILLE SYFRET, Vice-Chief of Naval Staff.	Lieutenant-General A. E. NYE, Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Secretariat :

Sir EDWARD BRIDGES.
Brigadier L. C. HOLLIS.

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Chemical Warfare.

(Previous Reference: W.M. (43) 57th Conclusions, Minute 2.)

1. The War Cabinet had a discussion on this matter, which is recorded in the Secretary's Standard File of War Cabinet Conclusions.

Anglo-Soviet-American Conference.

(Previous Reference: W.M. (43) 122nd Conclusions, Minute 3.)

2. The War Cabinet had before them the text of the telegrams despatched by the Prime Minister and President Roosevelt to Premier Stalin in regard to this Conference (Welfare Nos. 613 and 614).

The latter telegram stated that President Roosevelt thought that, while he would wish to send Mr. Hull to the Conference, he did not believe that the latter should make such a long journey, and that he proposed to send Mr. Welles and Mr. Harriman. President Roosevelt also said that, while he was willing that his representative should come to London, or somewhere in England, he was inclined to suggest Casablanca or Tunis.

"X"

In discussion in the War Cabinet, the view was expressed that, as it had been agreed that this Conference should be on the Foreign Secretary level, the proposals for American representation might cause some disappointment to the Russians. Great importance was attached to the success of this meeting, and it was felt that it might be worth while to suggest a change in the venue in order to ensure that the meeting was attended by representatives of all three countries who could speak with authority and with the power to reach decisions. It would be better that the Conference should be held in Washington or, say, in Bermuda, if satisfactory representation of all three countries could thereby be obtained.

The War Cabinet—

- (1) Invited the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to send a telegram to the Prime Minister on the lines indicated at "X."
- (2) Invited the Lord Privy Seal (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs) to send a telegram to the Dominion Governments informing them of the present position in regard to the proposed Anglo-Soviet-American Conference.

Italy.

(Previous Reference: W.M. (43) 122nd Conclusions, Minute 2.)

3. The War Cabinet were informed that the short military armistice terms had been signed by General Eisenhower's representative and General Castellano on the 3rd September. The formal signature would take place after the announcement of the armistice, which was being timed to fit in with operational plans.

Italy.

Politico-Military Commission.

4. The War Cabinet had a discussion, which is recorded in the Secretary's Standard File of War Cabinet Conclusions.

Operation "Starkey."

5. The War Cabinet were informed of the latest position in regard to this Operation.

*Offices of the War Cabinet, S.W. 1,
6th September, 1943.*

