

**13**     **Anthony Eden [Britischer Aussenminister] an John G. Winant [US-Botschafter in London], 1. 9. 1944**

His Excellency  
The Honourable  
John G. Winant

My dear Ambassador<sup>9</sup>

I write to thank you for your letter of the 23rd August [1944], in which you enclosed a message from Mr. Secretary Hull to the American Minister at Berne about the early resumption of trade discussions with the Swiss Government in view of the rapidly changing military situation.

Subject to an important reservation with which I will deal below, we agree with the United States Government that a formal joint Anglo-American demand for the suspension of all Swiss exports to the enemy and prohibition of all enemy transit traffic through Switzerland will soon be justified by military developments. We also agree that informal approaches as outlined in Mr. Hull's telegram to the United States Minister at Berne should jointly be made forthwith to the Swiss Government.

The reservation to which I referred above is this. We attach very high importance to avoiding forcing the Swiss to take action which would result in a rupture of Swiss diplomatic relations with Germany. This would necessarily mean that Switzerland would cease to act as Protecting Power at a moment when this may be more necessary than ever before. After the recent murder of our airmen in Germany, we are genuinely alarmed at the possibility that at the last moment before total defeat the Gestapo might run amok and commit wholesale murder of British and American prisoners of war. Obviously this is more likely to happen if the restraining influence of the Protecting Power is removed.

Accordingly while we agree that we should ask for a complete cessation of exports to Axis territory, we for our part should be prepared to accept an arrangement similar to our proposals of 9th May last, i.e. complete prohibition of export of high priority goods, drastic reduction of other exports and cessation of transit traffic in return for raw materials.

A telegram on the lines of this letter has been despatched to His Majesty's Minister at Berne and he has been instructed to concert with the American Minister an immediate informal approach to the Swiss Government on the lines suggested by Mr. Secretary Hull.

Yours sincerely  
Anthony Eden<sup>10</sup>

*Quelle:* PRO, FO 371, 39 844. Siehe S. 273 (Anm. 575).

<sup>9</sup> Handschriftlich.

<sup>10</sup> Grussformel und Unterschrift handschriftlich.

