

## Telegram from the Foreign Office to the British Embassy in Paris on the Suez Crisis (28 August 1956)

**Caption:** On 28 August 1956, the Foreign Office in London sends a telegram to the British Embassy in Paris in which it recommends that, when speaking to French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau, British diplomats should inform him of the advantage of also holding discussions on the Suez issue in the Western European Union (WEU) Permanent Council. The Foreign Office considers the WEU forum to be a more intimate setting that would allow for franker speaking.

**Source:** The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Foreign Office, Political Departments: General Correspondence from 1906-1966. AFRICA (J): Egypt (JE). Suez dispute: referral to UN Security Council; action by international bodies. 09/08/1956-04/09/1956, FO 371/119174.

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/telegram\\_from\\_the\\_foreign\\_office\\_to\\_the\\_british\\_embassy\\_in\\_paris\\_on\\_the\\_suez\\_crisis\\_28\\_august\\_1956-en-2aef5457-a90c-4505-8ca2-febb90dababf.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/telegram_from_the_foreign_office_to_the_british_embassy_in_paris_on_the_suez_crisis_28_august_1956-en-2aef5457-a90c-4505-8ca2-febb90dababf.html)



**Last updated:** 13/10/2016

F.O.  
371

CLOSED UNTIL  
1987

119174



# CYPHER

Registry No.

XXXXXXXXXX  
Secret.  
XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXX

JCWB  
JHAW

Date and time (G.M.T.) telegram should reach addressee(s).....

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
IMMEDIATE  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
with priority  
without  
XXXXXXXXXXXX

(Date) Aug 28

Despatched 12 46 p

Draft.

Telegram to:—

PARIS

[Security classification] SECRET  
—if any

No. 1495

[Codeword—if any]

(Date) Aug 28

Addressed to PARIS

And to:—

telegram No. 1495 (date) 28/8

repeated for information to Washington (Immediate)  
Saving to UKDEL Paris and <sup>all</sup> other NATO posts

Repeat to: 3923

Washington  
(Immediate)  
Saving to 194  
UKDEL Paris and  
all NATO posts

London 166  
Paris 155  
Brussels 442  
Copenhagen 463  
The Hague 556  
~~London 466~~  
~~London 466~~  
Cypher 250

Distributing  
London 486  
Bonn 591  
F.O. Secret  
& Whitehall Sec.

My immediately preceding telegram: Suez.  
<sup>When</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>is</sup> speaking to M. Pineau please inform him that I think there will be considerable advantage in a similar discussion beforehand in the W.E.U. Permanent Council. M. Spaak personally takes a very sound line on <sup>the implications of</sup> this. The more intimate W.E.U. meeting would enable us to mobilise his support, especially <sup>if there is a</sup> against a possible meeting of the U.N. Security Council, but also at the proposed North Atlantic Council meeting. Moreover, the W.E.U. forum is more intimate and would allow for franker speaking. I should be glad of M. Pineau's views on this.

Copies to:—

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(43454) WT.32755/D.367 50,000 B/51 A & E.W.LTD. GP.685

RECEIVED IN  
C.B.  
28 AUG 1956  
SENT TO DEPT.

11-25  
28/8  
18

*n*



SECRET

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

Cypher/OIP & by bag

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 1495  
August 28, 1956

D: 12.40 p.m. August 28, 1956

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Repeated for information to Washington [Immediate]  
And Saving to:

UKDel Paris No. 794	Luxembourg No. 117
Ankara No. 766	Oslo No. 239
Athens No. 188	Rome No. 488
Brussels No. 472	Ottawa
Copenhagen No. 403	Bonn No. 591
The Hague No. 556	Reykjavik No. 84
Lisbon No. 146	

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Addressed to Paris telegram No. 1495 of August 28.

Repeated for information to Washington  
and Saving to UKDel Paris and all other N.A.T.O.  
posts.

My immediately preceding telegram: Suez.

When speaking to M. Pineau please inform him that I think there will be considerable advantage in a similar discussion beforehand in the W.E.U. Permanent Council. M. Spaak personally takes a very sound line on the implications of the Suez issue. The more intimate W.E.U. meeting would enable us to mobilise his support, especially if there is a meeting of the United Nations Security Council, and also at the proposed North Atlantic Council meeting. Moreover, the W.E.U. forum is more intimate and would allow for franker speaking. I should be glad of M. Pineau's views on this.

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