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Extract from Note of Conference held in Mr. Leydon's
Room on the 11th May, 1939.

Present: Messrs. Leydon, Walshe, Ó Muimhneacháin, Duff,
Monahan and Hogan.

Meteorological Reports. Mr. Leydon explained the nature of the proposals made and the result of his discussions in London. The suggestion was that the ordinary peace time exchange of information between the two countries should continue in war time. Mr. Leydon thought that it would be unnecessary to use a code in sending the information by land line. Mr. Walshe considered that the Taoiseach would probably agree that the continued supply of this information to the U.K. Government in war time would not infringe the principle of neutrality and it was agreed that the Taoiseach's specific approval should be sought.

MW.

S. 5/9A

Meteorological Organisation in the event of
hostilities in Europe.

1. Pending the acquisition and training of staff for the Irish Meteorological Service weather reports are telegraphed to the British Meteorological Office from five Irish stations (to be increased shortly to ten). These reports are co-ordinated with British reports for broadcasting purposes from the United Kingdom. All forecasts required for Irish purposes are issued from the British Office, except those provided for transatlantic flights by the Shannon Meteorological Office, which is at present staffed by British officers on loan.
2. The developments contemplated in this country include the broadcasting of weather reports by an Irish Radio Station and the establishment of Irish forecasting centres.
3. In war the British Meteorological Office will cease to broadcast reports for the benefit of other countries, and the supply of forecasts from the United Kingdom for the public will cease.
4. Weather reports from Irish Stations would be of great value to any belligerent in north-west Europe particularly for the purpose of attacks on Great Britain. The withholding of Irish weather reports from the United Kingdom would place British interests at a disadvantage.
5. Reliable weather forecasting is essential for the Irish Air Corps. We receive at present no adequate forecasts except from British sources. In an immediate war we could not hope to obtain forecasts except from Britain. Ireland will, therefore, be dependent in war upon Britain for meteorological data which must be available for the defence forces and for such commercial air services as will continue to operate.

6. So far as the Department of Industry and Commerce are concerned there appears to be no good reason for discontinuing the practice of supplying weather information to the British Office in London, while, on the other hand the necessity for our continuing to receive reliable forecasts will in war conditions have greatly increased.

Department of Industry and Commerce,
24th August, 1939.



ROINN AN TAOISIGH
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
DUBLIN

26adh Lúnasa, 1939

SECRET:

MEETING OF CABINET: 25th AUGUST, 1939 - Meteorological
Organisation.

It was decided provisionally that the present practice of supplying meteorological reports to the British Office in London should be continued as recommended in Department of Industry and Commerce memorandum of the 24th instant.

Minister for Industry & Commerce/

For attention.

McMunnick neclain

Rúnaí don Riaghaltas.

EH