



10-17-1940

Letter From Maurice Leon to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, October 17, 1940

Maurice Leon

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44 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

October 17th, 1940.

Dear Hunt:

As to the points mentioned in your letter:

1. I have respect for General Weygand and do not believe he can be induced to play any German game or Italian game. I therefore do not believe he will do anything more for the time being than maintain the morale of those French-African possessions which have not joined General de Gaulle. As to what he will do in the future, that in my estimation will depend on events. The possibility that he may head French-African resistance to the Axis should the armistice be terminated is not to be ruled out.

2. As to why the British allowed the French warships to get through to Dakar, all I have in the way of information is what Winston Churchill said to the effect that the British Naval Intelligence Service was caught napping and did not notify London until it was too late to do anything.

3. I have not believed that any reliance could be put in a prospect of anti-German action by Russia, and believe that the sole aim of Stalin's policy is to have Germany and Great Britain weaken each other to the point where he need not fear anything from either. So far nothing has happened to change my view in this respect.

With regard to your memorandum, I believe that there is now a working arrangement between Washington and London regarding the command of both oceans. A recent statement by the President is indicative of this. Willkie, of course, if elected, as I hope he will be, will inherit this arrangement and I am convinced it will not be weakened but rather strengthened by him.

10/17/40

I thought the New York Times editorial on Monday had some bearing on subjects which we discussed Sunday night, and wonder whether you read it. I enclose it.

I greatly enjoyed my evening with you and so did Betty. Hearing that you are going to Princeton for the week-end, I am sending you the letter there in the hope that it will be a reminder that I am on the way between Woodbury and Princeton. I wonder if you could spend next Tuesday night with me on your way back from New Jersey.

As ever,

Cordially yours,

Maurice Léon

F.M. Huntington Wilson, Esq.,
c/o Mr. René Léon,
Princeton, N. J.

Enclosure.