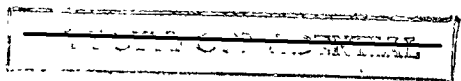


Gen Stinson
WJDEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTONIn reply refer to
U-L

Date: July 25, 1942.

URGENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Major W. M. Adams, G-2,
Chief, Military Attaché Section,
War Department.**FROM:** Liaison Officer.**SUBJECT:** Alleged deciphering by Axis agents of telegram
sent to Washington from Cairo.

I enclose at the suggestion of Assistant Secretary of State Shaw, the text in paraphrase of telegram 3405 dated July 24 from the American Minister to Switzerland, who transmits a message from Mr. Tittmann, the American Chargé d'Affaires at the Vatican, in regard to the alleged deciphering by Axis agents of a telegram sent to Washington from Cairo.

A careful investigation of this information has failed to reveal that a message of this character was sent by the American Legation or Consulate in Cairo. Consequently, your Department may desire to ascertain whether any of its codes have been broken by this alleged action by enemy agents.

Orme Wilson
Liaison Officer

Enclosure:

Copy of paraphrase of
telegram 3405 from Bern
dated July 24, 1942.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PARAPHRASE

Telegram no. 3405

Dated: 7-24-42, 3p.m.

From: Bern

Rec'd: 7-24-42, 12:13 p.m.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHAW -
NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

I have received a letter from Tittmann telling me that an official of the ~~Italian~~ Intelligence Service of the Italian Government had informed a friend of his in the Vatican that a telegram sent to Washington QUOTE by the Consul of the United States in Cairo UNQUOTE had been deciphered by the Axis. This message gave a somewhat detailed description of the weakness of the British military equipment on the battlefield of Libya. The member of the Italian Intelligence Service added that the information contained in this telegram was one of the factors which determined Rommel to make as far an advance as he did. You are requested to protect the source of this information. Should this report be true, the Department may wish to issue instructions directing that the particular code which has been broken must not be used.

HARRISON