

[CYPHER]

P R I S E C.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Viscount Halifax.
No. 5578.
4th December, 1941.

D. 12.30 p.m. 4th December, 1941.
R. 7.10 p.m. 4th December, 1941.

XXXXX

MOST IMMEDIATE.

MOST SECRET.

Your telegram No. 6561.

Following is text of reply from Field-Marshal Mannerheim dated 2nd December.

Begins. Field-Marshal Mannerheim to Prime Minister Churchill.
Personal. Secret and Private.

I had yesterday the honour to receive through the intermediary of the American Minister at Helsinki your letter of November 29th, 1941 and I thank you for your courtesy to send me this private message. I am sure that you will realise that it is impossible for me to cease my present military operations before my troops have reached positions which in my opinion would give us the security required. I would regret if these operations, carried out in order to safeguard Finland, would bring my country into a conflict with England and I will be deeply grieved if you will consider yourself forced to declare war upon Finland. It was very kind of you to send me a personal message in these trying days and I have fully appreciated it.

[Copies sent to the Prime Minister].

INDIV.