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10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

Prime Minister to Sir Samuel Hoare.

Personal & Secret

1. I have had long and excellent talks with Hillgarth who has greatly impressed us with the work you are doing. I brought him before the Defence Committee where he produced a great effect. My hope is that the Germans will not go through Spain by favour ever, or by force until at least the Spring; and that in this interval the Petain Government will be so maltreated by Germany that they will allow Weygand to re-open the war in Africa.

2. This would be strategically and politically more important to us than anything that could happen in Spain. If however we send troops to help Weygand via Casablanca or other West Atlantic ports, we will insist that the French make good offers to the Spaniards in Morocco and Tangier, which we would endorse, contingent on the Spaniards playing straight. It ought therefore to be possible to reconcile the conflicting ^{interests} ~~incidents~~ to which you have drawn attention.

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