June 26, 1944

Present: The American Ambassador, Mr. Harriman
Mr. Edward Page, Second Secretary of
Embassy

Marshal I. V. Stalin
Mr. V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar
for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Pavlov, Soviet interpreter

Subject: Invasion of Europe

As I was about to leave, Marshal Stalin with great
enthusiasm again expressed his admiration of the manner
in which the invasion of Normandy had taken place. He
said that the crossing of the Channel was an "unheard of
achievement" in the history of warfare. He was especially
impressed at the vast numbers of men and equipment which
had been thrown into France. He said that the moving of
over 650,000 effective in the first few days of the invasion
was an unbelievable accomplishment and that the world
had never seen an individual operation of such magnitude.
We discussed certain details of the invasion and Stalin
showed an intimate knowledge of what had transpired. I
emphasized on several occasions the fact that the invasion
was a combined effort.

Marshal Stalin asked me whether I recalled the con-
vversations at Tehran. When I said that it would be im-
possible to forget them, he said that he now had fulfilled
his promise that the Russian offensive would start shortly
after the invasion of Europe, and indicated that some
people had some doubts about what he would do. I said
that I could speak from my own knowledge on returning
from my recent trip to England and the United States that
General Eisenhower in England and in Washington the Presi-
dent, General Marshall, Admiral King and General Arnold
had had no doubt whatsoever that the Russian offensive
would be launched and that they had not even considered
it necessary to inquire as to the location or scale of
the operation. Stalin again said that doubts had existed
in certain quarters. I also said that every one of our
soldiers was deeply gratified at the news of the opening
of the Soviet offensive. Stalin replied that every Russian
soldier in his heart had been greatly bucked up by the
news of the invasion of France.

I informed the Marshal that I had received some of
the invasion motion pictures and that although they were
without sound I thought they might be of interest to him.
The Marshal stated with real enthusiasm that he would like
to see them. I added that I also had another film of landings on a Pacific island, that although this film was quite different in objective, since it was prepared for public release in the United States, I thought he might also enjoy seeing it since the pictures of the fighting include only those actually photographed on the field of battle. Stalin stated that he would also like to see this film very much.

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Copy to General Deane.
3 copies to Ambassador.