CONVERSATION.

September 23, 1944.

Present: The American Ambassador, Mr. Harriman
         Mr. Edward Page, Second Secretary of
         Embassy
         
         The British Ambassador, Sir Archibald
         Clark Kerr
         
         Major A. H. Birse, Second Secretary of
         Embassy
         
         Marshal I. V. Stalin
         Mr. V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar
         for Foreign Affairs
         Mr. Pavlov, Soviet interpreter

Subjects: Operations in France.

In commenting on the operations in France, Marshal
Stalin stated: "They are most bold and daring. Great
risks have been taken in driving wedges in the German
lines. But no success can be attained without risks.
The operations in the west have never been equalled here."

The Marshal indicated satisfaction at the plans to
take the Ruhr and remarked that when the Russians took
Katowice and the Upper Silesia, Germany would be deprived
of her coal and much of her industry.

The British Ambassador commented briefly upon para-
troop operations near Arnhem. He then inquired whether
the Marshal would like to prophesy as to when Berlin
would be taken. Marshal Stalin stated that he was a
bad prophet and did not like to make prophecies since
he might be wrong. He remarked that the Germans were
extremely tenacious and stubborn.

Sincerely,

Copy to General Deane.