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RETURN TO W.C.D. SHOWING ACTION

MPD 8690-677

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON. WPD

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MAR 16 1918.

March 16, 1918.

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WAR PLANS DIVISIONMAR 14 8690-677-
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WAR DEPARTMENT

The Secretary of War presents his compliments to The Honorable the Secretary of State and desires to acknowledge the receipt of his letter of February 7, 1918, relative to the matter of the exchange of confidential information between the State and War Departments.

The War Department concurs entirely in the views of the State Department in this connection and desires to cooperate in every way practicable with the State Department in this matter.

With this idea in view, it is contemplated, if such procedure meet with the approval of the State Department, to designate one officer from each the War Plans, Operations, and Executive Divisions of the General Staff, to constitute a committee of three to confer, from time to time, with such representatives of the State Department as may be designated for that purpose, with a view of considering such matters, including in particular those relating to the military and the political aspect of the situation in Russia and Roumania, and of effecting an exchange between the two Departments of such confidential information, as may be of mutual interest as constituting a basis of conference with a view to determining subsequent action and of co-ordinating the work and the policies in this connection of the two Departments.

It is contemplated that, in case of the adoption of this plan, it will supersede the present arrangement, whereby Major Charles H. Mason, General Staff, has been designated as a liaison officer between the State and War Departments for Russian and Roumanian affairs.

Information is therefore requested as to whether or not the suggestion above outlined meets with the entire approval of the State Department and, if so, as to the names of the representatives of the State Department that may be designated by the Department, and as to the time and place which would be most convenient to the Department for this committee to meet.

O.C.S.
W.P.D.
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MAR 16 1918

The Adjutant General