11 April, 1940

London

Lord George Ambrose Lloyd

His Majesty’s Cabinet for War

Statement of Position

Gentlemen of the Council,

The approach thus far has failed. Those with power neglected to exercise it, and through their inaction weakened Britain’s position in a time of war. The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill came to his post in promising the British people and His Majesty action. Action with the objective of securing their safety and eliminating external threat. This council must deliver no less.

An unyielding and unilateral military response is the only solution that this council can consider. The full capacity of our armed forces and that of our allies must be mobilised and prepared to recapture the lands under German control. The RAF must make effective use of its newly expanded arsenal to be in a position to defend British soil from air attacks. Those responsible for the defence of our colonies must receive reinforcements to strengthen responses to foreign aggression no matter the source; Britain is left to fade without its commanding position overseas. All this to ensure that British strategic interests are not undermined at home or abroad.

Allies of Britain need to establish their firm allegiance to counter German aggression. Those who refuse or pursue neutrality without just cause need to be aware of the consequences of such a decision. This would be directed towards the United States Ambassador who is present at this council. The Ambassador needs to inform his government of the highly serious threat Germany poses, not only to Europe and Britain, but across the Atlantic. If Europe falls to Hitler, he and his allies will look further for land they have not yet subjected to tyranny.

The United States Ambassador is here for the purpose of building a diplomatic relationship. This will never be possible if the United States Government does not declare war against Germany, rejecting their ideals and defending the principles of democracy the United States so often propagates. United, Anglo-American forces have the ability to eliminate the German plague from this continent as they did thirty years ago.

As His Majesty’s chosen representative in the colonies I have experienced first-hand the weakening of Britain’s position around the globe. Colonies have gained self-governance despite my recommendation against such action. A defeat in the war that is upon us will see the final demise of our loyalties and lands that we hold overseas. Conversely, victory will give Britain the ability to take new lands and restore the British Empire to its former glory.

For the sake of the British people at home and His Majesty’s subjects in the colonies, this war must be won and foreign aggression abolished.

The world must be reminded of the authority and predominance Great Britain still commands.

There is no room for error.

With grievance,

The Lord Lloyd

First Baron Lloyd

Secretary of State for the Colonies

Leader of the House of Lords