THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE SUCCESS OF THE EFFORT TO USE OFFICIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE POSTWAR TREATMENT OF GERMANY AS A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG IMPLICATIONS OF VIOLENT DISSENSION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THE WHITE HOUSE. THIS TENDS TO DISCREDIT YOUR ADMINISTRATION NOT ONLY AS THE SOURCE OF EFFECTIVE PREPARATION OF POSTWAR PLANS BUT ALSO BY INERENCE IN ITS EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR. WE RESPECTFULLY URGE A STATEMENT BY YOU TO THE PRESS OR A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIES OF WAR, STATE, AND TREASURY TO CORRECT THE FALSE IMPRESSION CREATED BY PROPAGANDA SUCH AS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON IN THE NEW YORK TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 28TH HEADLINED "MORGENTHAU PLAN SHELVED".

WRITERS WAR BOARD REX STOUT CHAIRMAN.
It is interesting once more to find a situation which has developed out of whole cloth and is fundamentally untrue. There is no dissension, violent or otherwise, among members of the Cabinet in regard to post-war treatment of Germany. I am sorry to say that this whole episode must be laid at the door of the AP man covering the State Department. It has no relation to the effective prosecution of the war and a statement by me would merely magnify a straw man into a menace.

If you will come down here during the next two weeks, I shall be glad to give you personally, and of course off the record, the inside story which however to be charitable can only be described as a political brainstorm.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
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MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL WATSON

The President sent Rex Stout a telegram the other day saying he would explain "off the record" to him about a matter he was concerned about if he would come down some day during the next two weeks.

Will you give him a date?

G. G. T.
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

The White House
Washington
October 10, 1944.

Reference the President's message to you October second.

Would you care to come Washington October seventeenth,
Eighteenth or Nineteenth, twelve-thirty P.M. Please wire
me preference or if not convenient let me know when you
would like to come. Regards.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

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The White House  
Washington

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EDWIN M. WATSON

SECRET TO THE PRESIDENT THE WHITE HOUSE

YOUR TELEGRAM RECEIVED. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE APPOINTMENT
AFTER THREE PM OCTOBER SEVENTEENTH OR NINETEENTH? MAY I BRING
CLIFTON FADiman WITH ME?


REX STOUT WRITERS WAR BOARD 122 EAST 42ND ST NYC.

General Watson talked to Stalin  
on June 10-16-44 - suggested
work after election when something

to talk at Camp.