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RECORD

PRISEC

## FROM ALGIERS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Resident Minister,

D. 9.55 p.m. 22nd July 1943

No. 1269

22nd July 1943

R. 12.50 a.m. 23rd July 1943

Repeated to Tunis

IMMEDIATE.

DEDIP.

MOST SECRET.

BIGOT.

Following personal for Secretaries of State for War and Foreign Affairs.

Colonel Maxwell is leaving for London tomorrow by air to arrange about British staff that will be needed for any extension of AMGOT that may have to be provided as result of our successful operations in the field.

2. I trust that you will give him your personal help over this. At least 20 men of outstanding ability of the rank of Major-General, Brigadier or full Colonel will be needed as well as about 80 capable men of the rank of Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel. You know the Civil Service as few other Ministers and if the Ministries prove reluctant to release the men required I hope that the question will be dealt with by some Ministerial Committee with the power to decide priorities urgently.

3. I need not labour the arguments in favour of sending the type of man required. But the following facts cannot be emphasised too often.

- (a) Efficient administrators in military government can do a great deal to economise use of fighting troops for garrison purposes. The time has therefore come when good men may be able to do more for the war effort as a whole outside the United Kingdom.
- (b) The job will not be an easy one. No properly run British firm before the war would have sent second class representatives to negotiate in foreign countries. His Majesty's Government therefore should not tolerate the use of cast-offs now.
- (c) The difficulties of running a military government administration increase by geometrical and not arithmetical progression as the area extends. This applies

particularly....

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