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U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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Government, the U.S. Department of the Navy or the Naval War College.

said that he felt certain that the French people themselves will regard this offer made by the President as very much in their interest, since it would have assured the safety of the crews of those vessels and would have assured the French people themselves that at the end of the war these French naval vessels would have been returned to them.

### LIII. STATUS OF AUSTRIA

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 162, Aug. 1, 1942)

At the Secretary's press conference on July 27 a correspondent stated that there appeared to be some confusion with respect to the view of this country as to the present status of Austria and asked for clarification on this point. The Secretary replied:

"It is probable that such confusion, if it exists, has arisen from administrative steps which may have been taken by this Government in pursuance of its own laws designed to afford adequate protection to this country's interests in dealing with the situation presented by the imposition of military control over Austria and residents of Austria by Germany. This Government very clearly made known its opinions as to the manner in which the seizure of Austria took place and the relation of that seizure to this Government's well-known policy toward the taking of territory by force. This Government has never taken the position that Austria was legally absorbed into the German Reich."