


British priority list of armaments, October 2, 1939. Great Britain desperately needed U.S. armaments to fight Hitler. But America's Neutrality Acts barred weapon sales to warring nations. On October 5, 1939, FDR received this list of priority items the British wished to purchase if America's ban on weapon sales was loosened. In November, Roosevelt convinced Congress to permit weapon sales to Britain and France with the conditions that the goods be purchased with cash and transported in foreign ships.



If the existing list of "arms, ammunition and implements of war", the export of which to belligerent countries is now prohibited by the President's Proclamation of September 5th, were to be amended and any articles were to be omitted, the articles which His Majesty's Government would be most interested in seeing excluded would be the following:-

CATEGORY I.

- (3) Gun liners.
- (4) Small arms ammunition. Shell bodies. Cartridge cases.

CATEGORY II.

Articles used for naval purposes, more particularly mines.

CATEGORY III and
CATEGORY V

Aircraft of all kinds including engines, individual component parts of aircraft engines, aeronautical equipment and instruments normally supplied with complete aeroplanes.

CATEGORY VII.

(1) and (2). Chemicals not made up finally into explosives and charges.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON D.C.

October 2nd 1939.