

# Four Telegrams

The chapter titled "Four Telegrams" presents a critical communication dated April 10, 1861, during the lead-up to the Civil War, involving key figures General Beauregard and L. P. Walker. The correspondence begins with a telegram from Montgomery directed to General Beauregard in Charleston, urging immediate action regarding Fort Sumter. Walker, as the Confederate Secretary of War, emphasizes the necessity of demanding the evacuation of the fort if Beauregard confirms the Washington Government's intent to supply it by force. He instructs Beauregard to respond promptly.

In response, Beauregard acknowledges the directive and states that the demand will be made at noon the following day. This trigger point is crucial, highlighting the tense atmosphere leading to conflict, as both parties are acutely aware of the looming confrontation.

Walker then sends another telegram to Beauregard, suggesting that unless there are specific, personal reasons for a noon demand, it would be more appropriate to make the request earlier. Beauregard tactfully counters, stating that the reasons for waiting until noon are indeed special.

These exchanges underscore the careful strategizing and urgency felt by Confederate leaders concerning Fort Sumter, which they view as pivotal. The tone reflects a blend of military protocol and the gravity of the moment, capturing the tension inherent in the early days of the conflict. The concise nature of the telegrams also demonstrates the direct communication style used in military correspondence, focusing on clarity and promptness in light of the critical situation. This brief chapter thus sets the stage for the dramatic events that would soon unfold around Fort Sumter, marking a significant turning point in American history.