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Navy were obliged to watch vital supplies for Germany passing up and down the protected actually landed on Norwegian soil. Moreover in another note which he had addressed to the Foreign Office that day, complaint was made of no less than fourteen separate violations of Norwegian territory by aircraft which seemed almost too great a number to be entirely accidental. <sup>8/4</sup> M. Colban then turned to the question of exports of iron ore from Narvik regarding, which he said that he had spoken to Mr. Collier the day before. Exports to Germany had fallen off while those to Great Britain had been maintained, and moreover the war trade agreements with both Sweden and Norway were designed to regulate this question. In these circumstances he would not understand why the London press continued to urge the vital importance of these iron ore supplies to German and he did not believe that they were in fact vital at all. <sup>46</sup> In conclusion we had some conversation with regard to the threats of a Russian drive to secure a sea port on the Atlantic. The Minister refused to take these threats very seriously, since he said that he could not believe that the Soviets would thus willingly involve themselves in war to the death/

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He realised that these were due to inadvertence but he begged me to impress on the authorities responsible the need for greater care by the individuals concerned. He had just been informed that morning of the torpedoing of a large Norwegian ship the "Cometa" and it was unfortunate that the Germans should have any handle with which to reply to Norwegian protests in such cases. British infringements were small in themselves, but they looked bad in the mass.

3. In reply I told the Minister that I had only just returned to London and ~~did~~ <sup>had</sup> not seen the two notes to which he referred. While I was sure that it must have been valuable for him to have had an opportunity of learning his Government's point of ~~ix~~ <sup>his</sup> view at first hand, I much hoped that <sup>he</sup> had been able to interpret our own feelings in London. I would enquire into the alleged violations of Norwegian territorial waters by British war ships, although I was surprised to hear of them ~~with the case~~

~~but~~ <sup>known</sup> I would not disguise from him that, while I appreciated the Norwegian point of view, certainly facts must be recognised. On the one side there were violations of Norwegian neutrality involving repeated <sup>crimes</sup> losses of <sup>Norwegian</sup> life and property, and <sup>also</sup> these violations were undeniably part of a deliberate and shameless ~~xxxxxx~~ policy. On the other side, if there were any infringements which I would <sup>must not be talked</sup> not necessarily admit, they entailed no loss of life, and yet all the time the Royal

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