

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

C. E. S.

27 March, 1940.

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Draft.

Sir C. Dormer

Oslo

No. 157

King  
Cabinet  
Dominions

Sir,

The Norwegian Minister asked to see me to-day on his return from his short visit to Oslo. He told me that while there had not been many people in Oslo he had seen the Prime Minister and M. Koht besides other officials at the

Ministry for Foreign Affairs. As a result of <sup>(see)</sup> conversations ~~had~~, although he had little

to add on the subject of the various questions pending between our two Governments, he felt that he had a considerably better understanding of Norwegian opinion. M. Koht had not yet

made up his mind as to whether or not to reply to His Majesty's Government's note of March 15th on the Altmark case, but the Minister thought

that he would probably send an answer. He had the feeling that M. Koht was equally hesitant on the majority of questions now at issue

in Norwegian politics such as Finland, and he had on the latter subject added nothing to his broadcast explanations of Norwegian policy. <sup>N. Colban said that</sup> He

had had similar lengthy discussions with the Prime Minister and these also had not led to any very definite results although <sup>M. Koht</sup> ~~the~~ had been good enough to express satisfaction with his work in London.

2. Monsieur Colban then turned to more practical matters, and referred to the two notes which he had left with Mr. Collier on the previous day (see my despatch No. <sup>N 35324 N 357</sup> ~~of~~ of which

Says he is not ~~convinced~~ ~~to~~

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death with the British Empire. At the same time he admitted that the Russian demands for transit facilities across Finland caused him some anxiety. I told him that M. Maisky had that day assured me that his Government had no such intentions *as those we were discussing.*

56. Our conversation was very friendly and M. Colban as usual gave the impression that he personally fully understood our position. On one point in particular he said that he had spoken his own mind to his Government, namely the question of armaments. I would realise, he said, what it meant for a former Director of the Disarmament Section of the League of Nations Secretariat to reach the conclusion that his country must at all costs rearm.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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