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Reference: 100/1000
CYPHER TELEGRAM
C I R C U L A R

To the Governments of Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa.

Sent 11.30 p.m., 12th February 1940

Circular D. No. 56. MOST SECRET.

Following for Prime Minister begins:

SCANDINAVIA

1. His Majesty's Minister at Stockholm considers that by forcing settlement in Soviet-Finnish conflict, Germany, having thus allayed Swedish fear of Soviet, might ingratiate herself with Sweden and secure position in Scandinavia embarrassing to Allies. As counter measure calculated to retain Sweden in Allied camp His Majesty's Minister advocates publicity for help we are affording to Finland. He believes that Swedish Government would welcome presence of large body of Allied volunteers in Finland, ready if need arose to defend Sweden in event of Finnish collapse followed by Soviet threat to Sweden and Norway. His Majesty's Minister states that Swedish Government seem at present to think it would be a good idea to send strong Allied force through Petsamo in early spring.

2. Swedish Secretary General during recent visit to Oslo found Norwegian Government more nervous about Swedish volunteers for Finland than about ours and in general feeble and lacking in sense of reality. He thinks however that, if Russians advanced on Narvik, Norway would fight, though very unprepared. Ends.



THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES.

POLISH PARTICIPATION IN SCANDINAVIAN
OPERATION.

With reference to Admiral Odend'hal's enquiry yesterday appropos a reported statement that the Poles were not prepared to participate in the Scandinavian operation, the following information has been obtained, and was probably that to which the Chiefs of Staff referred and which General Gamelin subsequently mentioned.

The British Ambassador at Angers on the 21st of February reported that both he and his French colleague felt that it was important that the Poles should consider the Germans as their primary enemy, and that if the spearhead of their new army was sacrificed in combating the Russians some Polish demoralisation might set in. He drew attention to the fact that the nucleus of the new Polish army must presumably be lacking in training and equipment. If now exposed to hardships and losses, the army's future development might be compromised. Finally, he said that he had reason to believe that the Polish Government and their military advisers were opposed to the immediate despatch of Polish troops to the Finnish front.

On the 23rd of February, the British Ambassador in Paris referred to the above and said that he had asked General Gamelin that day what the position was as regards the employment of a Polish contingent with the expedition to Finland. It seems that General Gamelin told him that he had received a letter from General Sikorski (the contents of this letter is unknown), and then went on to say that so far as he (General Gamelin) was concerned, there was no question of despatching a Polish contingent until April. He had understood that there was held to be a political advantage in Polish troops participating, but if this was not so, and if by April the Polish force was still not in a fit state to leave, and if for that or other reasons the British General Staff did not want them, he would try to arrange to supply an equivalent French force.

28th February, 1940.

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Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

Reference:-

F0371124834

14815

Norway

Nk335

238

241

4385/4125/30

between
tatives of the
and French Govts

Scandinavia.

Discussed whole situation in Scandinavia and possible
developments. Objects of the Mission to Stockholm.

Self Paper
S 16 (AF)

O/16(AF)

April, 1940.

ast Paper.

(Minutes.)

ferences.

Central Dept.

Rus

14/4

JMA/Amis

April 14/40

ED Cose

14/4

[Seen by Sir O. Sargent]

1^c April 17th

(Print.)

lost (disposed of.)

Admiral
Evans
nil 11th

(Index.)

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Reference:-

W0106/1856

14815

Breathing space for troops is one of my great difficulties and Fleming can give you details.

Now that I am strong on the main road Namsos - Steinkjer I am prepared to extend further towards Grong and to work down that railway. The French are receiving more troops. They do not know how many but their latest wires indicate a strong force. I feel we should shortly have more British Troops but that of course depends on your plans. If I can be assured of not being attacked from the Fjord south of Steinkjer when I advance there, I have a sufficient force and in that case I could wait till I get to Trondheim.

The officers you are sending tomorrow will be able to tell you of any points I have omitted,

Yours very sincerely

Alantundhian

~~1 MOST SECRET~~

Captain Nicholl.
Wing-Commander Elliot.
Colonel Dykes.
Colonel Jacob.
Major Cornwall-Jones.
Major Barnard.
Paymaster Lieut-Commander Knott.
Mr. Banks.

Certain Preparations.

It is clearly desirable to cut down the circulation of all papers dealing with certain preparations as low as possible. It is also important that we should be consistent.

It will, therefore, be the practice for all C.O.S. Minutes dealing with the plans and operations in question to be "Secretary's standard file" items and for papers and memoranda to be given a special circulation.

It is requested that any papers or Minutes which you circulate on the subject of the above plans and preparations should be treated accordingly, and that the attention of the Clerk concerned should be directed when such papers are given to him for circulation.

9th February, 1940.

COPY.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION

From FRANCE

Telegram (en clair) from Sir R. Campbell (Paris)
23rd February, 1940.

D. By bag. 23rd February, 1940.

R. 4.50 p.m. 24th February, 1940.

No. 150 Saving.

SECRET.

Sir Howard Kennard's telegram No. 8.

I asked General Gamelin to-day what the position was as regards the use of a Polish contingent with the expedition to Finland.

2. He told me of the letter which he had received from General Sikorski and of which Colonel Gubbins showed me a copy last night, and went on to say that so far as he was concerned there was no question of despatching a Polish contingent until April. He had understood that there was held to be a political advantage in Polish troops participating but if this was not so and if by April the Polish force was still not in a fit state to leave, and if for that or other reasons the Imperial General Staff did not want them, he would try to arrange to supply an equivalent French force.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 150 Saving of
23rd February: repeated to Angers.

SECRET.

Notes on conversation between General
Marshall-Cornwall and Mr. Pam of
the Bond Nickel Company, 19th
February, 1940.

1. At Linnahavari, besides the wooden piers, there is a concrete pier, which has recently been built by the Bond Nickel Company. It will be difficult to destroy this entirely. There is a depth of water of 28 feet. Mr. Pam was doubtful if heavy vehicles like tanks could be disembarked here.

2. Kirkenes. He confirmed the details of port facilities at Kirkenes and stated that besides the road to the Arctic Highway already reported, there is a track which runs from Kirkenes to Elveines, the nearest point on the Finnish frontier and from thence just inside the Finnish frontier to the Arctic Highway. Tanks could easily be landed at Kirkenes.

The mines to which the mineral railway runs from Kirkenes are iron-ore, belonging to the Sydvaranger Mining Company, a Norwegian enterprise with German capital. No German personnel are employed at Kirkenes. The iron-ore is of a high grade, very nearly as good as the Swedish ore from Kiruna.

3. Kolosjoki. East of Salmijärvi, on the opposite side of the lake, the Bond Nickel Company have lately built a town at Kolosjoki on the edge of the lake. There are a great many flats and other substantial brick buildings. If it was intended to use any of the Bond Nickel Company's factories or saw-mills, it would be worth taking out machinery which was previously latched up with the Bond Nickel Company in case the present machinery was destroyed. There was a subsidiary power station at Kolosjoki, the source of power being Atlas Diesel engines. A large quantity of lumber has been floated down to the saw-mill at Kolosjoki.

4. Mr. Pam also stated that there are now in the Finnish army about half a dozen engineers who had worked for the Bond Nickel Company before the war. These men are surveyors and road-engineers and would be useful as guides round Petsamo area. They speak English very well. If these men were wanted by the British Government, the Bond Nickel Company could get in touch with their representative at Helsinki, who is a member of the Finnish Government and he could arrange for these men to be released from army service. It might, however, take a certain amount of time to find these men and get them released.