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No. 234

N 3481
22 JUL 1939

BRITISH LEGATION,
OSLO.
14th July, 1939.

Confidential.

My Lord,

Under cover of my despatch No. 229 of the 11th instant I had the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a report by the Military Attaché of a conversation with a Norwegian military officer in which the latter expressed the belief that the Germans intended to occupy Denmark in the event of war. Their plans, he added, were known to the Danish military authorities and formed part of the Danish-German non-aggression pact (an oddly named pact in the circumstances).

2. The opinion that Germany intends to occupy Denmark at the outset of war is held by the Head of the Norwegian Military Air Service (see enclosure in my letter to Sir Lancelot Oliphant of April 25th) and by other Norwegians such as Professor Worm Müller, but I thought that it would be interesting to know if it also represented the view of the Norwegian Government. I accordingly sounded M. Koht without of course mentioning names.

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3. M. Koht stated that Norwegians in general, including the press, knew nothing whatever of foreign affairs. He had found it quite useless to say anything to them because there was no bottom to their ignorance.

He/

The Right Honourable
Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
etc., etc., etc.