

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 20th, 1939

No. 689

My Lord,

With reference to your despatch No. 430 (A 2516/6/51) of May 9th regarding the quantity of fuel to be supplied to belligerent warships from neutral sources in time of war I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I had an informal enquiry made at the State Department based upon the statement of His Majesty's Minister at Panama by the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone to the effect that in the event of war the canal regulations required that only sufficient fuel be supplied from ports under his control to a belligerent warship to enable it to reach the next port open to it for re-fuelling. The State Department were asked whether it was the intention of the United States authorities that the same rule should be applied generally throughout the United States of America and their territories in time of war; also, for the purpose of applying this rule, what vessels and in what circumstances would be regarded by the United States authorities as assimilated to warships.

The/

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,

etc., etc., etc.

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The enclosed reply was handed yesterday to a member of my staff with the explanation that it should be considered an oral reply to the questions raised.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) R. C. LINDGAY