

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON D.C.

No. 1238.

November 11th 1939.

My Lord,

-/3.

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 1231 of November 3rd, that the news that the Norwegian Government had decided to intern the German prize crew on board the "City of Flint" and hand the vessel over to her American crew was received with satisfaction in the local newspapers which had previously been speculating on the ship's chances of reaching the Baltic without being intercepted by His Majesty's ships. Copies of a press release issued by the State Department on November 3rd, and of an extract from the "New York Times" of November 8th, giving the text of the Norwegian Government's official statement on the subject, are enclosed herein.

2. It is now reported that on instructions from the United States Lines the Captain of the "City of Flint" is now discharging the ship's cargo at Bergen. The vessel will then return to this country in ballast. This decision seems to be generally welcomed as providing the best means of ensuring the safety of the ship and her crew and of avoiding further international incidents.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax K.G.,

etc. etc. etc.

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(FOR THE AMBASSADOR)

VALM:FRHM:MS

(SGD) V.A.L. MALLETT