

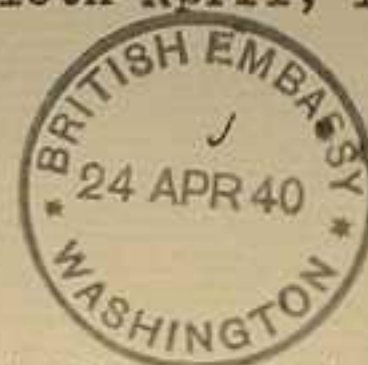
No. 370

(K 6577/4643/250)



FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10th April, 1940.



My Lord Marquess,

I have to inform Your Lordship that the assistance of His Majesty's Consular officers on the East Coast of North America has been invoked by the Air Ministry in connexion with the desirability of obtaining information about icebergs in the Western North Atlantic Ocean.

2. Reports upon the existence of ice are provided by the International Ice Patrol Service, the work of which has hitherto been supplemented by information supplied by merchant ships to the United States Hydrographic Office. These latter reports have been extremely helpful in locating the southern limits of the advancing ice menace, and in determining the date for commencing the International Ice Patrol. Owing to the outbreak of hostilities, however, many vessels are now maintaining radio silence, and it is anticipated that the amount of information to be derived from this source will consequently be extremely meagre.

3. In view of the importance of obtaining early information in regard to ice conditions, it has been considered desirable for reports from ships to be rendered to the United States Hydrographic Office immediately upon arrival in port. In order to avoid disclosing the ship's position on a particular date, it is proposed that masters of British ships arriving at a port on the east coast of the United States should report to His Majesty's Consul at the port the most easterly and southerly positions of any ice sighted during the voyage. Such reports could/

We must first  
of all find out  
if to J.17.  
and agree to  
consuls sending  
reports direct to  
the Hydrographic  
Office.  
Try to  
Mr. Sangster.  
AR  
29/4  
See - 1/2

His Excellency

The Most Honourable

The Marquess of Lothian, C.H.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Washington.

INDEX

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could then be transmitted immediately by His Majesty's Consuls at these ports to the United States Hydrographic Office, omitting the ship's name and nationality.

4. I have to suggest that if Your Lordship has no objection to the performance of this duty by His Majesty's Consular officers at the appropriate ports, they may be instructed to obtain and submit the desired information to the United States Hydrographic Office either direct or, if you would prefer, through His Majesty's Embassy. Copies of the reports made should be sent immediately to the Director, Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, Kingsway, London W.C.2.

5. It would appear that the officers concerned are His Majesty's Consuls-General at New York, Boston and Philadelphia, His Majesty's Consuls at Baltimore (to include Norfolk) and Jacksonville, and possibly His Majesty's Consul-General at New Orleans and His Majesty's Consul at Houston (to include Galveston).

I am, with great truth and respect,

My Lord Marquess,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

