

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
May 10th, 1940.

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No. 201.

Sir,

On instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs I have the honour to inform you that since the German seizure of Denmark it had become necessary for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to reckon with the possibility of a sudden German descent upon Iceland. It was clear that in the face of an attack on Iceland, even on a very small scale, the Icelandic Government would be unable to prevent their country falling completely into German hands.

His Majesty's Government accordingly decided to preclude this possibility, which would deprive Iceland of her independence, by themselves landing a force in Iceland; and that was done this morning.

They have explicitly assured the Icelandic Government that they are acting solely to ensure the security of Iceland against a German invasion, that the force will be withdrawn at the end of the war and that they will not interfere/

The Honourable  
Cordell Hull,  
Secretary of State of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

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interfere with the administration of  
the Island. They are also prepared to  
negotiate an agreement on trade matters  
which should bring material advantages  
to the inhabitants of Iceland.

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

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN