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Col Jones - 233
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SECRET

INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT OF
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Memorandum by the Minister of Information

General Smuts has enclosed me a copy of his Report to the War Cabinet (G.T. 3939).

Since the meeting of 5th March with representatives of the Admiralty, War Office and Foreign Office, I have investigated closely the Intelligence requirements of the Ministry of Information. I feel that it is essential that I should be given direct access to the entire political Intelligence of the Admiralty, War Office and Foreign Office. In order to determine the policy of the Ministry in Neutral, Allied and Enemy countries, I must be fully posted upon the changing conditions abroad.

I ask for a ruling of the War Cabinet that I shall be permitted, for this purpose, to have full access to the Intelligence of the three Depts. - the Admiralty, War Office and Foreign Office, and that the Ministry of Information, so far as concerns Intelligence, shall be in exactly the same position as these Depts.

I am prepared to confine the branch of my Dept. dealing with this information to myself and one other who will be satisfactory to the War Cabinet, and I am prepared to name him if the War Cabinet approves of my plan. He is not connected in any way with the press. I am convinced that nothing short of this free and untrammelled flow of political Intelligence will enable me to carry out my organisation on efficient lines.

As to the Intelligence Bureau hitherto existing in Mr. Buchan's Information Dept., I have to request that this branch may be retained by the Ministry of Information with authority to carry on the work which it has hitherto performed. It is most desirable that I should not be deprived of my staff at a critical moment in the organisation of this Ministry.

I trust the War Cabinet will appreciate that it is of the first importance that I should have all the expert assistance available at a time when I am first grappling with the many intricate problems which are inherent in propaganda in Foreign countries. If the experts in the psychology of foreign countries who constitute the staff of the Intelligence Bureau of my Ministry are to be taken away from me, it will be impossible for me to do my work efficiently. When I have had experience of the working of the Bureau, I may find it convenient to dispense with the services of some members of the present staff, and in such conditions I shall gladly hand them over to the Foreign Office if it is so desired.

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