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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 Uabinet (G.T. 3939).

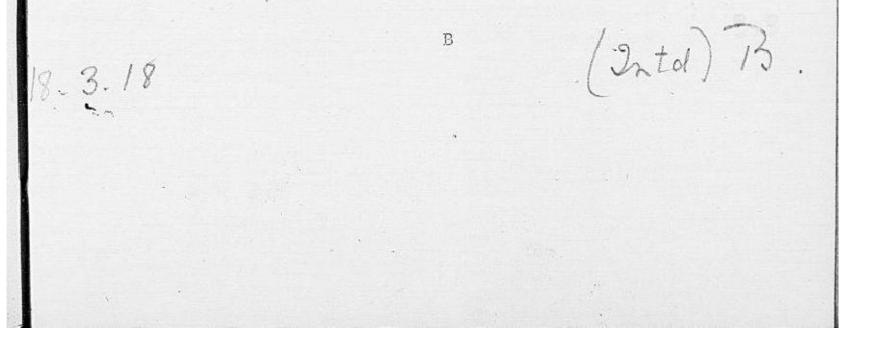
Since the meeting of 5th Earch with representatives of the Admiralty, Ear Office and Foreign Office, I have investigated closely the Intelligence requirements of the Finistry of Information. I feel that it is essential that I should be given direct access to the entire political Intelligence of the Admiralty, far Office and Foreign Office. In order to determine the policy of the Himistry in Foutral, Allied and Encary countries, I must be fully posted upon the charging conditions abroad.

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

I am propared to confine the branch of my bept, dealing with this information to myself and one other who will be satisfactory to the Mar Gabinet, and I am prepared to mane him if the war Gabinet 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 Fr. Buchan's Information Dept., I have to request that this branch may be retained by the Hibistry of Information with authority to earry on the work which it has hitherto performed. It is nost desirable that I should not be deprived of my staff at a critical moment in the organisation of this binistry.

I trust the Mar Gabinet 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 Poreign countries. If the experts in the psychology of foreign countries who constitute the staff of the Intelligence "uncau of my Himistry are to be taken away from me, it will be impossible for me to do my work efficiently. Then I have had experience of the working of the Himman, I may find it convenient to dispense with the services of some members of the present staff, and in such conditions I mail gladly hand them over to the Foreign Office if it is so desired.



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