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SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE'S JOURNEY TO SOUTHAMPTON (1940)

From: LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 1055

23rd Sept. 40

To DIRECTOR.

1. Our Trade Representative was in SOUTHAMPTON on 20th September and has reported what he saw on the way (there, [c]).

- A. The VICKERS Aircraft Factory at WEYBRIDGE was bombed by the SAUSAGE-DELLERS (KOLBASNIKI) [i] - about two workshops were destroyed. Before the bombing the cable of the air-raid siren (PROVOD SIGNALA TREVOGI) was cut and the alert was not sounded. About 70 were killed and 100 injured. BROOKLANDS Aerodrome alongside was intact and there were a large number of fighters on it.
- B. 13 tanks of different types at FARNBOROUGH and B.SINGSTOKE. FARNBOROUGH Aerodrome was intact and there were many fighters on it.
- C. There were a large number of SPITFIRES on KESTRIM Aerodrome. The aerodrome and a number of factories were intact but there had been bombing nearby.
- D. In the centre of SOUTHAMPTON there was hardly any bombing. The port was seriously damaged. The docks on the River TEST were completely demolished. The INNER, OUTER and OCEAN Docks suffered considerably. The refrigerated warehouses were burnt down. The majority of the cranes

were destroyed. The EXPRESS DOCK was hardly damaged. Military transports, H.T.B.'s, trawlers and one destroyer were lying in them. [2 groups missed] Damaged ships were berthed in the different docks. The power station was [OK intact]

[180 groups missed]

stove[stove-like] devices standing a metre apart for a distance of several kilometres. By each there was a pot containing a special compound. This device is presumably for [laying][a] a smoke screen during the SAUSAGE-DEALERS' bombing. The personnel operating this device were soldiers.

No. 283

DICK [DICK][ii]

Note: [a] Inserted by translator.

Comments: ✓ [i] SAUSAGE-DEALERS: the Germans.

[ii] DICK: Covername of unidentified LONDON signatory and addressee between 6th July 1940 and 11th October 1940. Messages to HCSCOF signed by DICK are normally addressed to JOHN [DEHON].