

1. IRONSIDE'S RETIREMENT AND GORT'S NEW APPOINTMENT
2. LITTLE PASSES INFORMATION ON WAR PRODUCTION TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR

(1940)

From: LONDON

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To DIRECTOR.

1. The retirement of General IRONSIDE and the appointment of GORT to the second-rate post of Inspector [GENERAL][a] of Training are looked upon here as routine measures of CHURCHILL's to strengthen his position in running the war. The departure from leading positions of generals who belonged politically to the CHAMBERLAIN group should ease EDEN's position. The press has taken up a favourable attitude, stressing that generals with battle experience in France have been promoted to higher appointments.

2. One of the Minister of Labour's assistants [by the name of][a] LITTLE [LITLL][i] has passed [b] the following to the MASTER of the METRO [KROKTA IN METRO][ii]:

- A. There are altogether 16 aircraft factories in production. A further 15 aircraft factories will have been started up by 1st October. The latter will produce 500 aircraft a month and a maximum of 1,000 aircraft. Britain's total output at present appears to be 2,400 aircraft (presuming that these figures are exaggerated [sic]).
- B. Industry is [B% experiencing] the following difficulties: A lack of steel because of the loss of the Swedish and Spanish ore. Local ore is available in sufficient quantities, but it is exceptionally poor and two months are needed to develop its mining. Difficulties in organizing the cooperation of private enterprise. Machine tools are actually working at 50 percent [load][a]. It has been decided to reduce the working day to 10 hours with overtime, instead of the former 12 hours, since with the increase in the working day production has fallen by seven [1 group unidentified][s] percent.

Notes: [a] Inserted by translator.

[b] The Russian verb can imply the handing over of a document or transmission by word of mouth.

[c] Probably a fraction.

Comments: [i] LITTLE: Probably John Carruthers LITTLE, who became Industrial Commissioner at the Ministry of Labour in 1941.

✓ [ii] MASTER of the METRO: the Soviet Ambassador.

✓ [iii] MARCH: Possibly Simon Davidovich KREMER, whose official post was Secretary to the Soviet Military Attaché in LONDON. He was appointed in 1937 and is thought to have left sometime in 1946. The covername MARCH occurs as a LONDON addressee and signatory between 3rd March 1940 and 10th October 1940, after which it is superseded by the covername BRION.