

USSR

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1. COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND GERMANY
2. INFORMATION ON GERMAN AND BRITISH AIR STRENGTH SUPPLIED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR

(1940)

From: LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 784

18th July 40

[36 groups missed][a]

in [b] the government and [C% elements] have reported that the British are preparing the ground for a possible agreement with Germany. Today a TIMES leading article says that from an historical point of view HITLER has made progress in the unification of Europe and Britain is making a mistake if she sets herself the task of restoring the old order and status quo in Europe and at home. GREENWOOD [i] stated to the MASTER of the METRO [KhOZYAIN METRO][ii] that the cause of this agreement was the Admiralty's statement that she [c] could not put up any opposition to Japan at present. There was no [C% reason] why Britain [B% should] not wish to have consultations with us and SASHA [iii] on this question.

2. The Secretary of State for Air [MINISTER AVIATaII] SINCLAIR [iv] gave the MASTER of the METRO the following information:

Not a single aerodrome has been knocked out nor has a single major military objective been destroyed as a result of all the German air-raids in July. Acquaintance with captured German fighter pilots and a study of shot-down matériel show that the Germans are at present using second-rate and very young fighter pilots against Britain. They have no good British maps or photographs of bombing targets. They are using photographs of targets which were used earlier for reconnaissance of the factories. He [1 group garbled][1 group unidentified] that the Germans had lost 104 aircraft in July against the British 26. This difference in losses is said to be attributable to the better training of the British pilots and the fact that the British fighters are more manoeuvrable than the MESSERSCHMITTS. The

(cont. overleaf

British are working on a fighter armed with cannons. SINCLAIR considers that the Germans have 5,000-6,000 first-line aircraft and up to 14,000 in reserve; the first line is being constantly reinforced. He considers that the British will catch up the Germans in aircraft production in three months.

JÉRÔME [KARSON][v], by the way, has reported that the British are now producing 1,200 aircraft a month. According to information in the press the Germans are producing 60 aircraft per day.

No. \*\*\*[a]

BARCH [vi]

Notes: [a] The addressee and internal serial number are probably among the groups missed.

[b] Or "to".

[c] "She" presumably refers to Britain.

- Comments: ✓ [i] GREENWOOD: Arthur GREENWOOD, then Minister without Portfolio.
- ✓ [ii] MASTER of the METRO: the Soviet Ambassador.
- ✓ [iii] SASHA: the United States. For an explanation of this coverword see LONDON's No. 998 of 11th September 1940 (3/PPDE/T12).
- ✓ [iv] SINCLAIR: Sir Archibald SINCLAIR.
- ✓ [v] JÉRÔME: André LABARTHE, Director-General of French Armament and Scientific Research at General DE GAULLE's Headquarters till September 1940. See also LONDON's Nos. 741 of 8th July 1940 (3/NEP/T1773), 776 of 17th July 1940, 791 of 20th July 1940, 798 of 22nd July 1940, 807 of 24th July 1940, 865 of 10th August 1940, 987 of 6th September 1940, 1056 of 23rd September 1940 and 2151 of 6th August 1941 (3/NEP/T1477).
- [vi] BARCH: 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 BARCH occurs as a LONDON addressee and signatory between 3rd March 1940 and 10th October 1940, after which it is superseded by the covername BRICH.