



3/938/1200

Reykjavík, 1st July, 1940.

My dear Minister,

With reference to the (last) conversation which the Prime Minister and I had with you and Brigadier Lammie ^{some days ago} on several questions arisen through the military occupation by the British forces, it is considered desirable that one of those questions is more fully entered into, that is to say, the situation created by the fact that the British forces have for the present their Head Quarters and their chief military precautions in the capital of this country.

For this reason I, ^{in full agreement with} and I know I can speak in the names of ^{in the Government} my colleagues, too, take the liberty of asking you to be good enough to provide us with ~~as detailed replies as possible~~ ^{information} regarding the questions I ^{then} put before the Brigadier ~~at our last meeting~~.

~~(to summarize)~~ ^{main point} I may state the (questions) as thus:

Does the Commander of the British forces ^{not} consider that increased danger is caused to the populace of Reykjavík by the presence in this town of the British forces, ^{and by creating organizations of military defenses in the town} and if so, does not the Commander consider it possible to move the forces ^{etc} out of town?

9
Attention is called to the fact that the French authorities as well as now in these days the British seem to consider it fit to move military forces ^{etc} away from certain places and declare towns and other important localities

His Excellency

M. C. Howard Smith,
H.B.M. Minister,
Reykjavík.

2 undefended, in case it is considered necessary that those localities may escape attacks. It follows from this that both of those Allies of this great war do consider that the presence of military forces ^{and other defences do} increase the risk for attacks on positions where the forces ^{and defences} are located.

If it is so that the presence of the British ^{military defences} forces here increase the danger for attack on Reykjavík, ^{and} which according to the above seems to be ^{in conformity with} the opinion of the British Military Authorities, the Icelandic Government ^(also) cannot strongly enough stress their profound appeal that the military ^{defences and} forces be removed from Reykjavík, where 1/3 of the population of Iceland live and by far the greatest part of the values which the Icelandic people by 1000 years toil has acquired, is located, of which some cannot possibly be assessed in currency. ^{value in money}

It is firmly believed that the reasons and requests stated above will be sympathetically considered by the Commander and a satisfactory solution found at the very earliest date.

Very sincerely yours,

V. Rafnsson.