

(c) In either event the measure and method of this assistance would depend largely upon the character of the military dispositions taken by the Netherlands Government. As to these the United Kingdom Government have no adequate knowledge, and without this knowledge assistance cannot be rendered without what might be dangerous delay. It would be helpful therefore if the Belgian Government could inform the Netherlands Government of the enquiry made of the United Kingdom Government and suggest that the Netherlands Government should at once furnish the United Kingdom Military authorities with all necessary information. His Majesty's Ambassador was to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs also that the United Kingdom Government propose themselves shortly to approach the Dutch direct.

3. His Majesty's Minister at the Hague has been instructed to make the following communication to the Netherlands Government if the French Government concur: after informing the Netherlands Government of the Belgian enquiry and reply His Majesty's Minister will say that while the United Kingdom Government are not asking the Netherlands Government in the present circumstances to engage themselves definitely in advance, they would be glad to know what is likely to be their attitude to a proposal that, in the event of a German attack on the Netherlands, the Allies should come to their assistance, and that in the view of the United Kingdom Government a pre-requisite of Allied assistance would be not only consultation between the Netherlands and Belgian Governments but also between the Netherlands Government and the Allied Governments.

4. His Majesty's Minister in Paris has been instructed to inform Monsieur Daladier personally and in the strictest confidence of the enquiry from the Belgian Government and the reply and of the instructions to the Hague and to ask if he concurs to his views on the next steps to be taken.

21st March, 1940.