

English. Their sympathies are beyond all doubt with the Allies. And with England Norway has probably more in common than with any other non-Scandinavian nation. To England, and to its Fleet, Norway, like Denmark, would instinctively look for support in a moment of dire need. I insist that promise of such support should be given before the fatal moment arrives, and that it should be given in the most unequivocal terms.<sup>1</sup> Her independence is what Norway cherishes above anything else. An assault on it is the one thing she fears. She stands more outside than her sister nations, with less to fear and less to gain from the events that are now shaking Europe to its foundations. Her incentive to neutrality is the more potent because she has recently entered on a career of industrial development that promises great things for her future. Like Sweden, she is bound to be of tremendous importance to England during the rest of this century, provided she is permitted to grow in peace and in accordance with her own nature. For this reason, if for no other, England should spare no effort to dispose of whatever fears may be still haunting her.

## II

Sweden now remains to be considered. I have on purpose put Sweden last, because she needs to be dealt with at somewhat greater length. Her position is more difficult than that of Norway or even of Denmark. Her problem is more acute. Her attitude has seemed more questionable. The sympathies of Denmark are undoubtedly with the Allies, no reservation being made against Russia. The sympathies of Norway are in the

<sup>1</sup> The Belgian Grey Book shows that the *offer* of support has been made by England [Ed.].