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Epreuve illisible

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From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

-2-LONDON,

of risk and a steady proportion of losses must be expected. There are also other forms of attack besides U-Boat attacks from surface craft and from the air against which we must be on our guard. I can assure the House that every preparation is being made to cope with such attack but I must again warn the House that we cannot guarantee immunity and that we must expect further losses.

Our second reply to the U-Boat attack is to arm all our merchant Vessels and fast liners with defensive armament both against the U-Boat and the aeroplane. For a fortnight past armed ships have been continually leaving the harbours of this Island in large numbers. Some go convoy some go independently. This applies not only to the United Kingdom but to our ports all over the world. Thus in a short time the immense Mercantile Marine of the British Empire will be armed. As we usually have 2000 ships on salt water every day, this is a considerable operation. However all the guns and equipment are ready at the various arming stations together with a proportion of trained gunners to man them and to instruct the ordinary seamen. Let me pay my tribute to the care of my predecessor at the Admiralty who had provided so well for this contingency.

Our third reply is, of course, the British attack upon the U-Boats. This is being delivered with the utmost vigour and intensity. It is a strange experience to me