

aircraft which had presumably mistaken the Swale for the Medway. The aircraft which had crashed at Sheringham had also had a mine on it, and steps were being taken to recover it.

Mr Herbert Morrison's Speech.

THE PRIME MINISTER referred somewhat bitterly to Mr Herbert Morrison's speech in the House last night, in the course of which he stated that the disaster at Scapa Flow (i.e. the sinking of the ROYAL OAK) would not have happened if Lord Stanhope had been removed from Office earlier. Mr Morrison had also stated that the appointment of Sir John Gilmour as Minister of Shipping was idiotic. The Prime Minister was not worried about that remark, which was aimed at himself, and he was quite prepared to look after himself. The statement in regard to Lord Stanhope he thought was disgraceful. Even the harmless part of Mr Morrison's speech had the character of ordinary peace-time Party stuff. Anyhow, he was not proposing to put down a Private Notice Question in regard to the statement about Lord Stanhope, as that might have led to a demand for publication of the Report in regard to the ROYAL OAK. He wished his colleagues to be aware of his views on the matter.

British Subjects kidnapped at Venlo.

At the end of the Meeting THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR asked whether there was any further news of the two British subjects who had been kidnapped at Venlo.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY said that four days ago the United States Ambassador at Berlin had received instructions to make enquiries regarding these two men, but the United States Embassy had not yet been able to furnish a report.

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W.M. (39) 108th CONCLUSIONS.

8.12.39.

Minute 2.

The Naval Situation.

THE FIRST LORD said that there was some reason to think that the ship torpedoed outside Narvik had been torpedoed inside Norwegian territorial waters. If so, this might prove a considerable help to us. This, no doubt, was a reference to our desire that the Northern Barrage should extend into territorial waters.

Minute 9.

The Balkans.

Reference was made to a rather gloomy telegram from Sir William Seeds (No.503), the effect of which was that we might as well reconcile ourselves to being at war with the Soviet.

THE PRIME MINISTER said that Sir William Seeds was a very ill man, and too much attention should not be paid to his views.

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W.M. (39) 109th CONCLUSIONS.

9.12.39.

Minute 12.

War Cabinet Arrangements.

There was some general discussion not recorded in the Minutes.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY thought that it might be a good plan that on one day in the week the War Cabinet should divide into two packs, which should hunt separately. Thus, one pack might pursue the question of the supply of munitions, which would provide