



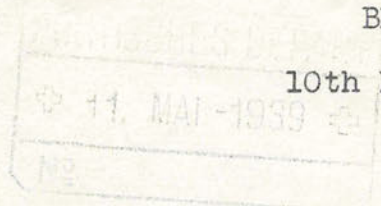
BRITISH LEGATION,

BERNE.

No. 29.

(17/17/39)

10th May, 1939.

Confidential.

His Majesty's Legation present their compliments to the Federal Political Department and have the honour to refer to their note C.22.41.10.-SY of the 9th March last and to the conversations which Monsieur Erwin Matter subsequently had in London on the subject of Swiss tonnage requirements in the event of war.

His Majesty's Legation are now instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to request that the following assurance may be conferred to Monsieur Matter:-

"If the Swiss Federal Government complete their
 "arrangements to obtain an option to hire a block of non-
 "British tonnage, not belonging to a possible ally, to cover
 "about one-third of their total shipping requirements in war,
 "and will keep His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom
 "fully advised of the arrangements they make and the names
 "of the ships concerned, His Majesty's Government will under-
 "take not to requisition or force into their service any such
 "ships, subject to their being satisfied that the ships and
 "their cargoes will not be used in a manner which might assist
 "an enemy. His Majesty's Government will be prepared to
 "discuss arrangements for ensuring this with the Swiss Federal
 "Government and, if necessary, also with the French authorities"

His Majesty's Legation avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Department the assurance of their high consideration.

BRITISH LEGATION,

BERNE.

10th May, 1939.

Federal Political Department,
 Berne.

Dodis

