

H.T.
Greenland 1023/ 27 /40

5

Cape K. Okawa is the
No. 30, May 6.
L. S. D.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
May 6th, 1940

No. 404

My Lord,

-/21
With reference to correspondence ending with my telegram No. 650 of May 1st reporting the decision of the United States Government to establish a Consulate in Greenland, I have the honour to report that public discussion regarding the status of Greenland with respect to the Monroe Doctrine has been well covered by the reports of the British Library of Information since the German invasion of Denmark.

2. The wide range of speculation on the matter is well indicated in the Library's Survey No. 166 covering the period April 9th to April 16th. There is general agreement with the Administration's view that Greenland forms part of the Western Hemisphere and is covered by the Monroe Doctrine. There is general agreement that the Germans must be kept out and that in view of the Monroe Doctrine it is Canada or the United States rather than Great Britain which should do this. The choice between Canada and the United States, however, is difficult because Canada is so closely connected with a European power and the United States is aware that an American occupation of Greenland would give a pretext for a Japanese occupation of the Netherlands East Indies if Germany should/

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

6

should overrun Holland. The necessity for anybody to occupy Greenland against the Germans seems, however, remote enough for the discussion to remain academic and interest appears to be dying down.

3. I am sending copies of this despatch to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom at Ottawa and to the British Library of Information.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN