

SECRET

Reference.....

The Prime Minister.

I know how important it is to get wireless operators for interception work on the enigma messages, but I want to put in a plea that R.S.S. operators shall not be drawn on except in the last resort.

We have established a very valuable chain of interception on the network of German Secret Service wireless operating through France into Belgium and Germany. This has given us a great deal of the information we possess about their plans for training and placing agents here, in America and in Ireland; and the R.S.S. men working on these ^{are} are specially trained and experienced in the groups used. We also depend on the R.S.S. for listening in to pick up any messages which may be sent by German agents from here. This is particularly important at times when the Germans change their code, and until we have broken the new code, we cannot decipher messages picked up the other side.

You can judge the relative urgency of claims, but I wanted you to know how much all my communications work depends on the R.S.S. The R.S.S. has no margin; it is in fact 45 per cent. under establishment in operators.

Swinton

24th September, 1940.