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Enclosure

London March 16, 1918.

19 For the President.

Meeting of Supreme War Council extended its session from fifteenth to sixteenth so that political \* did not take place until yesterday afternoon. It was held at Number 10 Downing Street, following were present: Mr. Lloyd George and his military secretary Colonel Hankey, M. Clemenceau, Signor Orlando, Mr. Balfour, M. Pichon, M. Bissolati,<sup>1</sup> Lord Hardinge, General Spiers who acted as interpreter, and myself. The subjects discussed were the question of Japan in Siberia, a declaration regarding the German-Russian and German-Ukraine peace, and a Polish declaration.

Mr. Balfour began the Debate on the first subject by saying that the United States after consenting to act with the Allies was now apparently drawing back, evidently influenced by the stream of telegrams from Russia and fezfurl [fearful] of public opinion in America. Unless the United States intervened in Siberia he did not think Japan would act alone as the latter did not wish to risk incurring the ill will of the United States upon whom she counted for financial and material help, but he said do we ourselves believe in the policy sufficiently to ask the Department of State to accept the gamble, and it is a gamble, of persuading the Japanese to intervene in Siberia. Mr. Pichon thought that Mr. Balfour had very well stated the case and agreed with him in the main, he believed that Great Britain, France and Italy should reach a thorough understanding on this subject and put the case before the United [60] States in an Identic telegram, this telegram to consist of two questions. First. Do you believe intervention necessary? Second. If you do to what extent can you help Japan? Signor Orlando agreed with Mr. Pichon. He felt that the intervention of Japan was desirable, the only question was to what extent it was desirable. It was evident that the United States thought that Japanese intervention in Siberia would arouse opposition in Russia and put Russia against the Allies. Mr. Balfour asked Mr. Clemenceau whether his Government had any late telegrams from Petrograd, because he said Lockhart who was in daily touch with Trotsky reported the latter as being

(Enclosure, Gordon Auchincloss to Woodrow Wilson, March 16, 1918. In: “Gordon Auchincloss to Edith Bolling Galt Wilson”. In: “The Papers of Woodrow Wilson”, Vol. 47, March 13 - May 12, 1918, p. 59. From: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda) <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0070-0002>

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From Edward Mandell House, 29 April 1918

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From Edward Mandell House

New York. April 29, 1918.

Dear Governor:

One of the ablest men the British have yet sent over is Major General Hutchinson who expects to return this week.

Hutchinson tells me that Secretary Baker suggested that you might want to see him and, in view of this, the British Ambassador may ask whether you would care to talk with him for a few minutes. <sup>1</sup> He is in the closest possible touch with Generals Robertson, Haig and Wilson and it might be of some service to see him and give him your point of view direct. He told me in confidence that he was practically certain that the Lloyd George Government would go within a few weeks, and that General Robertson would be returned as Chief of Staff.

Affectionately yours,

E. M. House

TLS (WP, DLC).

T telegram (WP, DLC).

Enclosure, 27 April 19

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Enclosure

London, April 27, 1918.

591. Following for Col. House from Sir William Wiseman:

Most grateful for your telegram 602 of the 26th.

(a) I am sending you a message from Sir Horace Plunkett, but send you these notes of my own in advance. Sir Horace Plunkett regards the problem solely from an Irish, as distinguished from a general political, point of view, and does not fully take into [466] consideration H. M. Government’s dilemma, described in my telegram No. 583 of the 25th, paragraph a. <sup>1</sup> Also he does not refer to the difficulty of reconciling claim of Ulster to self determination. His position, however, is a sensible description of the problem from an honest Irish point of view.

(b) H. M. Government is unofficially representing to the Vatican the danger of the Church taking an active part in anti-conscription movement.

(c) Russia: Lockhart, who has always been a keen supporter of Trotsky, now seems to think the latter is losing his influence.

An interesting observation from well-informed Austrian quarters is that peace with Russia has heartened the Austrian people to continue the struggle in the West, and if Eastern Front is even partially recreated the Austrian morale, which is very weak, might break down altogether.

I have a long cable from Sir Horace but I cannot get it in shape to send to you tonight.

E.M.H. <sup>2</sup>

(Enclosure, Edward Mandell House, London, April 27, 1918. In: “From Edward Mandell House”, New York, April 29, 1918. In: “The Papers of Woodrow Wilson”, Vol. 47, March 13 - May 12, 1918, p. 465. From: University of Virginia, Rotunda) <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0538-0002>

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Enclosure, 2 April 1918

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Enclosure

Washington April 2, 1918.

MEMORANDUM.

American Warship for Murmansk

The attached telegrams from the Embassy at Vologda<sup>1</sup> show the following:

1. The Ambassador and also Military Attaché recommend presence of American war vessel at Murmansk to join British and French who are cooperating with Soviet there; they believe effect would be good.

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2. In addition to four British ships at Murmansk a French cruiser is now there and has landed two hundred troops in barracks; British cruiser has landed field pieces and marines.

3. Murmansk Railway is reported threatened by Finnish White Guards drilled by German officers.

It is to be noted that the British Embassy requested this Government to send a warship to Murmansk about two weeks ago.<sup>2</sup> The Department is informed that the original landing of the British at Murmansk was made with the full consent and approval of Trotsky.<sup>3</sup>

Basil Miles

TS MS (F. L. Polk Papers, CtY).

(Enclosure: MEMORANDUM: American Warship for Murmansk, Frank Lyon Polk to Robert Lansing, April 2, 1918. In: “The Papers of Woodrow Wilson”, Vol. 47, March 13 - May 12, 1918, p. 226. From: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda) <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0269-0002>

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Enclosure 4

Handed me by Lord Reading, Apr. 2/18 RL

Washington, April 2, 1918.

PARAPHRASE of telegram from Mr. Lockhart,  
Moscow: Dated March 28th, 1918.

On March 27 I had a very satisfactory discussion with Trotsky, who again mentioned the possibility of allied troops being sent via Siberia to Russia. Trotsky confirmed the remarks made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs,<sup>1</sup> and said that Russia would welcome help from the allied countries, now that she is involved in a life and death struggle, even if to obtain this help it should become necessary for the socialist forces to fight in cooperation with the army of the imperialists. Provided that the allies would give guarantees on certain points and that *other allied forces were present*<sup>2</sup> he thought there was no objection to the use of Japanese troops. I do not doubt that it is more than possible to come to an arrangement in this question, but in order to do so we must act with caution.

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Enclosure 2, 11 May 1918

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Enclosure 2

Handed me by Lord Reading  
May 11/18 RL

Washington. May 11th, 1918.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM<sup>1</sup> FROM MR. BALFOUR  
TO LORD READING — MAY 10TH, 1918.

In recent reports from our representative at Moscow you will have noticed a most important change in the attitude of Trotsky, as described in these telegrams, and an even more noticeable alteration in Mr. Lockhart's estimate of the position. The embarrassment in which Trotsky now finds himself is caused by his belief, for which there is only too much foundation, that the Allies even if asked to intervene would not be ready to give him help for a long time, while Germany is in a position to make an immediate attack. His enemies would be able to crush him completely before his friends had been able to put even one division ashore in the Far East.

(Enclosure 4: PARAPHRASE of telegram from Mr. Lockhart, Bruce Lockhart, Moscow, March 28, 1918. Italics original. In a US intelligence report to Robert Lansing, April, 2, 1918. In: “The Papers of Woodrow Wilson”, Vol. 47, March 13 - May 12, 1918, p. 245. From: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda.) <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0286-0005> (Enclosure 2: PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM FROM MR. BALFOUR TO LORD READING – MAY 10TH, 1918, Handed to Robert Lansing from Lord Reading, Washington, May 11, 1918. In: “The Papers of Woodrow Wilson”, Vol. 47, March 13 - May 12, 1918, p. 607. From: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda.) <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0706-0003> (





## Arthur James Balfour to Lord Reading

[London] 18 April 1918.

[No. 2303] I am sending following at the request of War Cabinet.

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us impossible to go behind it provided it will actively co-operate with us in fighting Germany. Of late a very significant change has come over attitude at any rate of its M.F.A.<sup>3</sup> Trotsky towards Allies. For sometime past he has begun to show signs that he recognises that co-operation with Allies in a war to free Russia from German domination is the only hope either for Russia or revolution or possibly for maintenance of his own power. Opinions differ as to Trotsky's honesty but he is evidently a man of decision and of late, whatever may be motives, he has not only curbed anti ally tone of Bolshevik Press but he has approved of allied co-operation at Murmansk and has suggested that British naval officers should assist in restoring discipline in Black Sea Fleet. We have only just heard that he has now definitely

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be reached through conclusive defeat of enemy's forces. First and most important step however in carrying out of this policy is to obtain whole hearted concurrence of President. Until we are assured of this we do not propose to approach our Allies.

T telegram (Reading Papers, FO 800/222, PRO).

<sup>1</sup> A. J. Balfour to Lord Reading, April 17, 1918.

<sup>2</sup> Balfour apparently used the word rather loosely to encompass the areas which he discusses in the balance of this paragraph.

<sup>3</sup> That is, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Actually, Trotsky was now Commissar for War; Georgii V. Chicherin had become Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>4</sup> Balfour was quoting from a telegram from R. H. Bruce Lockhart, sent from Moscow on April 13 and received in London at 7:15 p.m. on April 18. For a discussion of its context and significance, see Ullman, *Intervention and the War*, pp. 160-61.

Cite as: *The Papers of Woodrow Wilson Digital Edition*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2017.

Originally published in *The Papers of Woodrow Wilson* © 1966–1994, Princeton University Press.

Canonic URL: <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0439> [accessed 24 Sep 2020]

Original source: Original Series, Volume 47, March 13 – May 12, 1918

(Arthur James Balfour to Lord Reading, London, April 18, 1918. In: "The Papers of Woodrow Wilson", Vol. 47, March 13 - May 12, 1918, p. 245. From: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda.) <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/WILS-01-47-02-0439>

# Did Britain try to assassinate Lenin?

By **Mike Thomson**  
Presenter, Document, Radio 4

🕒 19 March 2011

[www.bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)

Did Britain try to assassinate Lenin? - BBC News

In late May, the British decided to send a small military force to Archangel in northern Russia.

The official line was that the troops were going to prevent thousands of tonnes of British military equipment, supplied to the Russians, from falling into German hands.

However, documents from the day suggest that plans were later drawn up for these 5,000 British troops to join forces with 20,000 crack Latvian troops who were guarding the Kremlin but could, it was thought, be turned against the Bolsheviks.

In the summer of 1918, Lockhart sent a telegram to London following a meeting with a local opponent of the Bolsheviks called Savinkov.

It read: "Savinkov's proposals for counter-revolution. Plan is how, on Allied intervention, Bolshevik barons will be murdered and military dictatorship formed."