**Position Paper -** Owen Falkenham

**Citadel High School Delegation**

**Committee:** World War 2: Britain

**Character:** Sir Archibald Sinclair

“*Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing*” –John Stuart Mill

The time of appeasement is past; Sir Archibald Sinclair believes that the war that has started will only continue to escalate, given time. By this belief, He strongly suggests that Britain begin making preparations for the coming war, including the procurement of an overall strategy or strategies to guide the state moving forward. That said Sir Archibald Sinclair has specific topic areas he wishes to address in relation to the coming war.

Firstly, and the subject Sir Archibald Sinclair is most involved with, as Secretary of State for Air, is of course the upcoming battle for air supremacy between Britain and her allies and Germany. This issue can be further subdivided into two categories, as air supremacy pertains to the defence of the state, and as it pertains to battlefields abroad.   
Focusing on the former, as it is arguably the most important, is the defence of Britain. As seen in the First World War, air attacks on cities not on the battlefield, Britain specifically were not only proven possible, but put into practice with the zeppelin raids by the Germans.[[1]](#footnote-1) Since that time the capabilities of aircraft have not ceased to improve, allowing for more rapid and more destructive strikes on British soil. Sir Archibald Sinclair strongly reminds of the potentially devastating impact such strikes could have on both infrastructure and public moral, as again happened in the First World War.[[2]](#footnote-2) Sir Archibald Sinclair reminds that a willing populace is an essential element when fighting a war. While aircraft production is beginning to gear up in Britain[[3]](#footnote-3) and radar emplacements provide early warning to attacks,[[4]](#footnote-4) there is also the technological race to consider, again using the First World War as an example[[5]](#footnote-5).

The other theatres to consider are those not taking place on British soil. While Sir Archibald Sinclair hopes that these will be the only theatres that British troops will be forced to participate in this is unlikely. Therefore Britain would do well to consider the deployment of its forces, and to evaluate its capacity. Sir Archibald Sinclair believes France to be the target in the most danger[[6]](#footnote-6). Britain will have to be able to counter the German Blitzkrieg tactics show in Poland. While mobilizing large numbers of troops to France may be difficult, counteracting the airstrikes by Germany will be crucial, and in that regard Sir Archibald Sinclair believes that Britain is able to provide crucial support. Other battlefields provide the same challenges and Britain develop a plan to distribute its forces effectively. Finally, while Sir Archibald Sinclair realises that the requirements in technology and development have not been met at this time, the use of strategic bombing campaigns can and should be realized in the near future, and can be accomplished if funding and manpower is provided, Sir Archibald Sinclair believes that the damages mentioned that could be turned against Britain could also be used to force Germany to pull out of the war earlier. Technologies advances could also be focused on allowing longer flights, allowing greater anti-submarine capabilities by aircraft.

Considering these factors, Sir Archibald Sinclair:

* Strongly advises for a measure plan for the deployment of air force assets in this war.
* Encourages that the government fund the development of new technologies for aircraft.
* Urges the development of sound tactical doctrine to combat threats Britain will be facing.
* Promotes the increase of aircraft production to allow for ample power leveraged on all fronts

A topic that also concerns Britain is the land portion of the war. Having already witnessed the defeat of British forces by the Germans in Norway,[[7]](#footnote-7) Sir Archibald Sinclair realises that the war on land will be a difficult one, as the Germans employ tactics unseen in previous wars. Sir Archibald Sinclair believes that Britain will need to play to its advantages in this war one of those advantages being its empire. Sir Archibald Sinclair believes that the mobilization of Britain’s empirical assets will be crucial to overwhelming the German war machine. Other assets must be protected. The Suez Canal for instance, will be integral in both shortening supply shipment times, and must be kept out of German hands. It will also be integral in mobilizing both the assets out of India and Australia into combat. Finally, Sir Archibald Sinclair believes France to be a vital asset in the war and must be defended, else Britain lose Europe entirely. This necessitates the raising of further troops, and their deployment into France.

Therefore, Sir Archibald Sinclair:

* Strongly advises the creation of a tactical doctrine to counter German tactics.
* Realises the need for the mobilization of troops within Britain.
* Advises the cooperation with and the mobilization of the colonial assets.
* Urges a strategic deployment plan for Britain’s troops to maintain its assets.

The final concern for Britain, and the final theatre of war is the sea. Sir Archibald Sinclair recognises the strength of the Royal Navy, however he cautions the members of government, advising them to consider the ability of the Germans to bypass this strength through the use of submarines in the First World War.[[8]](#footnote-8) The protection of trade should therefore be prioritized in this conflict so as to allow Britain to maintain its capabilities. Sir Archibald Sinclair also advises caution in regards to the Mediterranean theatre. The Italians are indecisive as of yet, but their treaty with Germany suggest the side they may enter on. Though the Mediterranean, theatre is vital, if Italy joins on the side of Germany, measures may need to be taken to ensure this does not cause undue losses, while maintaining the Suez Canal to the best of Britain`s ability.

These facts lead Sir Archibald Sinclair to:

* Urge the strong protection of trade routes.
* Advises the production of counterplans should Italy join with Germany.
* Encourages the full use of the Royal Navy to dominate the seas.

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1. Bishop 35 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Hill 28 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Swanston 378 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bishop 65 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Bishop 15 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Guide 4 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Swanston 50 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Uttridge & Spilling 791 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)