

M O S C O W . M I S S I O N .

Issue No. 1110..16..10..1941
Title: Victory.
Track: do.

Lines: Stagg.
Voice: do

A cruiser conveyed the British and American delegates to Soviet Russia. Lord Beaverbrook braved the northern weather in company with Captain Balfour, Under Secretary for Air. Their American colleagues were led by the Lease-Lend expert, Mr. Averill Harriman. Both leaders had with them a band of service and civilian experts, all of them with the facts at their finger tips. It was grey weather, reminding all that winter is almost upon us - a winter that may decide the fate of freedom for generations. This voyage had more than war significance - it augured well for the peace to come. A Soviet destroyer met the cruiser off Archangel. The delegates' long sea journey - two-thirds of it within the Arctic Circle - was at an end. Without delay they went ashore to the waiting airliner.

Over northern forests the plane sped 800 miles south towards the capital. - that great city against which the Nazis had already launched their onslaught. At the Central airport, amongst uniformed figures, stood the well-muffled form of Sir Stafford Cripps, the British Ambassador to whose diplomacy the western world owes a great debt. Nearby was Vernon Bartlett, who has since returned home.

Averill Harriman was first out of the plane. Lord Beaverbrook grasped the hand of Sir Stafford Cripps and was introduced to a small crowd of commissars who conveyed the greetings of Joseph Stalin. All stood at attention as the band played the three national anthems.

Past the guard of honour Lord Beaverbrook and his colleagues hurried to their cars. We now know that their visit was a huge success. Beaverbrook's unique drive and hustle paved the way for rapid help on a great scale. The hopes of civilisation rest with Britain, the Soviet and America.