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S E C R E T.

C.P. 103 (36).

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C A B I N E T.

PROGRAMME OF NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR 1936.

Memorandum by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

The following is the New Construction Programme which I ask the Cabinet to approve for inclusion in the Navy Estimates for 1936:-

- 2 Capital Ships
- 5 Cruisers
- 9 Destroyers
- 4 Submarines
- 1 Aircraft Carrier
- 6 Sloops
- A number of small craft viz:-
  - 1 River Gunboat
  - 1 Trawler
  - 2 Motor Minesweepers
  - 2 Small Surveying vessels
  - 5 Boom Defence Vessels
  - 2 Special Service Vessels
  - 6 Coastal Motor Boats  
(in future to be called Motor Torpedo Boats)
  - 3 Tugs

2. This Programme has been formulated in the light of the enquiry of the Sub-Committee on Defence Requirements and provides for:-

- (a) Commencement of replacement of the Battle Fleet.
- (b) An increase in the rate of replacing old Cruisers.

Capital Ships.

3. With the expiry of the London Naval Treaty 1930, on the 31st December, 1936, we are free in 1937 to begin the replacement of the Battle Fleet.

4. It is therefore proposed to include 2 Capital Ships in the 1935 Programme and lay them down early in 1937.

Cruisers.

5. Under the London Naval Treaty 1930, we have available for 1934, 1935 and 1936, 86,350 tons of 6" Cruiser tonnage. Of this the 1934 Programme absorbed 32,050 tons and the 1935 Programme 27,300 tons, leaving 27,000 tons which may be laid down in 1936. The 1936 Programme, however, need not be limited to this figure since it can include ships to be laid down on or after the 1st January, 1937, when the restrictions of the London Naval Treaty will no longer be in force.

6. Our aim is to reach by 1942 a total of 70 cruisers including 10 over-age, and in order to achieve this it is necessary to include 5 in the 1936 Programme.

7. To meet the Japanese programme in similar large cruisers, we need 10 6" cruisers of the SOUTHAMPTON class; 8 of these are already provided for, and it is accordingly proposed to include the remaining 2 in the 1936 Programme.

8. The 3 other Cruisers will be of a much smaller type (probably about 5,000 tons) which is intended for work with the main Fleet as opposed to Trade protection duties.

Destroyers.

9. Under the London Naval Treaty 1930, we have available for Leaders and Destroyers in 1935 and 1936 a total of about 51,000 tons.

10. The 1935 Programme, as originally approved by the Cabinet, included a normal Flotilla of a Leader and 8 Destroyers, which absorbs 12,250 tons. It was subsequently decided, for the reasons stated in C.P. 42(35), to substitute for this Flotilla one of 7 Leaders, with a total tonnage of 12,810 tons. The number was kept to 7 in order to avoid any substantial increase of cost. Eventually, for reasons stated in C.P.198(35), it was decided to include both Flotillas, which will absorb about 25,310 tons.

11. Our aim is to possess 12 under-age and 4 over-age Flotillas. When the 1935 Programme is completed, we shall have 10 Flotillas of post-war design.

12. We propose in 1936 to lay down a Flotilla of 9 vessels similar to the Leaders added to the 1935 Programme, which will absorb about 16,650 tons of the 26,690 tons remaining to us under the 1930 Treaty, and will give us two Flotillas of 8 such vessels each. It has been approved that all these vessels shall be given names of tribes (e.g. NUBIAN) and known as Tribal Class Destroyers.

Submarines.

13. Under the London Naval Treaty 1930, we have available for 1934, 1935 and 1936 a total of 10,486 tons.

Of this, the 1934 Programme has absorbed 2,860 tons and the 1935 Programme 3,200 tons, a total of 6,060 tons. This leaves about 4,400 tons which may be laid down before 31st December, 1935.

14. The minelayer submarine which it is proposed to include will bring the total number of this type to 6, the number which we require. The patrol submarine will be a second vessel of the 1,000 tons 'T' type, which will probably be the standard patrol submarine for some years to come. The remaining 2 submarines will be of a new small type of about 500 tons intended to replace the 'H' class vessels, which were completed in 1919-20. These 4 vessels will absorb about 3,600 tons of the 4,400 tons available.

#### Aircraft Carrier.

15. The Aircraft Carrier proposed may be of less tonnage than the maximum (23,000 tons) allowed by the London Naval Treaty 1936, but the design is still under consideration.

#### Sloops.

16. The 6 sloops comprise 3 Sloop Minesweepers, 2 Convoy Sloops, and a Coastal Sloop. The 3 Sloop Minesweepers are necessary as an instalment of a programme for replacing the Twin Screw minesweepers constructed during the war, before their lives expire.

17. Convoy Sloops will be used in war time for escorting Merchant ships in convoy, but can be employed in peace on the same duties as the standard "Patrol" Sloops, and also, when specially fitted, as surveying ships. We require some 10 vessels of this type, and the 2 which

it is proposed to include in the 1936 Programme will bring the total built and building up to 5. It is proposed, in future, to classify these vessels as "Convoy Escorts".

18. The Coastal Sloop and one Trawler (included under Small vessels) are required to replace old Fishery Protection vessels.

Small vessels.

19. The River Gunboat represents the first instalment of a programme for the necessary replacement of the 11 old River Gunboats in China.

20. The recent purchase of 20 Trawlers for anti-submarine and minesweeping duties makes it unnecessary to continue the replacement programme of 2 Trawlers a year begun in 1935 for these purposes, but one Trawler requires to be built for Fishing Protection purposes, as explained in paragraph 19.

21. The function of the proposed 2 Motor Minesweepers which will be wooden vessels of lifeboat type is that of auxiliary minesweepers, a large number of which would be required in war. A large proportion of the vessels which would be hired or requisitioned would necessarily be old or lacking in speed, and it is therefore desirable to acquire a number of vessels specially designed for the purpose, which could be rapidly produced in an emergency.

22. The 2 small Surveying Ships are intended to replace 2 vessels whose hull lives will expire in 1938. 1 of them will be so constructed as to be suitable for employment as a sloop minesweeper in time of war.

23. The policy hitherto in regard to Boom Defence Vessels has been to build 2 Gate vessels and 1 Boom Working vessel a year, but in view of the acceleration of the Naval Deficiency Programme it is necessary, in order to keep step with the provision of boom material, to build 3 Gate vessels a year and 3 Boom Working vessels in two years, and the present proposals in regard to these craft are made on that basis.

24. One Special Service Vessel is required as a tender to H.M.S. VERNON, the Torpedo School at Portsmouth and the other, for laying indicator loops, is an essential part of our preparations, if we are to have it in our power to establish a Mobile naval base to meet immediate strategical needs in case of emergency.

25. Coastal motor boats are small very fast vessels of great value in making or repelling raids in restricted waters such as the Mediterranean. Six boats were ordered as an addition to the 1935 New Construction Programme, and it is desired to obtain six more as early as possible in the new financial year. It is proposed in future to call these vessels Motor Torpedo Boats.

26. A financial statement, shewing the total estimated cost of the Programme and the probable spread of the expenditure over the financial years affected, is appended.

(Initialled ) M.

Admiralty,

7th April, 1936.

NEW PROGRAMME 1936.

	1936.	1937.	1938.
2 Battleships.	765,500	5,200,000	5,000,000
3 "Improved SOUTHAMPTON" Cruisers.	515,800	1,800,000	1,600,000
5 Small Cruisers.	5,600	975,000	1,275,000
2 Tribal Class Destroyers.	1,092,400	2,800,000	1,237,600
1 Aircraft Carrier.	-	700,000	1,500,000
1 Minelayer Submarine.	64,200	200,000	145,800
1 Patrol Submarine.	52,150	180,000	127,950
2 'H' Class Submarines.	47,950	200,000	112,050
2 Sloop Minesweepers (Dockyard).	98,000	120,000	22,000
1 " " (Contract).	31,150	80,000	8,850
2 Convoy Escorts.	15,000	220,000	205,000
1 Coastal Sloop.	1,000	80,000	24,000
2 Small Surveying Ships.	35,300	150,000	94,700
1 Large River Gunboat.	10,700	64,500	-
6 Motor Torpedo Boats.	124,400	25,600	-
1 S.S. Vessel (Indicator Loop Layer).	10,000	80,000	
1 S.S. Vessel (Tender to VERNON).	12,000	8,000	
6 Boom Defence Vessels.	-	25,000	87,500
2 Motor Minesweepers.	28,000	12,000	-
1 Large Trawler.	13,000	17,000	-
3 Tugs.	58,000	212,000	-
Small Craft.	158,950	95,000	4,000
	5,139,000	13,043,900	11,444,450

NOTE: These figures take no account of an o  
cut and exclude provision for on-cos

## NEW PROGRAMME 1936.

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	TOTAL.
	765,500	5,300,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	1,234,500	16,300,000
Cruisers.	515,800	1,800,000	1,500,000	884,200	-	4,000,000
	5,600	975,000	1,275,000	999,400	-	3,255,000
es.	1,092,400	2,800,600	1,237,600	-	-	5,130,000
	-	700,000	1,500,000	1,300,000	300,000	3,800,000
	64,200	200,000	145,800			410,000
	52,450	180,000	127,950			360,000
	47,950	200,000	112,050			360,000
ockyard).	98,000	120,000	22,000			240,000
ontract).	31,150	80,000	8,850			120,000
	15,000	220,000	205,000			440,000
	1,000	80,000	24,000			105,000
	35,300	150,000	94,700			280,000
	10,700	64,300	-	-	-	75,000
	124,400	25,600	-	-	-	150,000
Loop Layer).	10,000	80,000				90,000
6 VERNON).	12,000	8,000				20,000
	-	25,000	87,500	-	-	112,500
	28,000	12,000	-	-	-	40,000
	13,000	17,000	-	-	-	30,000
	58,000	212,000	-	-	-	270,000
	158,950	95,000	4,000	-	-	257,950
	5,139,000	13,043,900	11,444,450	7,183,600	1,534,500	36,345,450

NOTE: These figures take no account of an overhead cut and exclude provision for on-costs.