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Italy: Mussolini - Hitler Folder

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IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

Roma, li 11 gennaio 1939-XVII

Caro Presidente,

L'Ambasciatore Phillips mi ha consegnato, al suo ritorno da Washington, la vostra lettera e io ho discusso con lui i vari punti che in tale lettera e nel memorandum che vi era annesso, voi avete sollevato. Egli certamente vi avrà informato della nostra conversazione, e voi siete quindi già al corrente del mio punto di vista.

Per quello che riguarda l'Etiopia, non è possibile pensare a organizzare una emigrazione ebraica in quella regione. A parte qualunque altra considerazione, l'atteggiamento generale degli ambienti ebraici nei riguardi dell'Italia non è tale da consigliare il Governo Italiano ad accogliere in un suo territorio una massa considerevole di emigrati ebrei.

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Si tratta, d'altra parte, di problemi che non si presentano solamente nei riguardi della posizione degli ebrei in Italia o in qualche altro Paese, ma di problemi che sono di carattere generale, poichè la questione ebraica esiste, in forme diverse, in quasi tutti gli Stati d'Europa, e deve essere quindi considerata come una questione generale europea, per poterla risolvere su linee costruttive.

A mio avviso, i soli Paesi che possono accogliere e organizzare una considerevole emigrazione ebraica sono quelli che dispongono nel loro territorio nazionale di grandi estensioni scarsamente popolate e di grandi risorse che possono essere adeguatamente sfruttate e messe in valore. Solamente questi Paesi, nella vastità e nella ricchezza della loro struttura, possono dare effettivamente impiego ad una massa di ebrei, che intendano lasciare i Paesi d'Europa nei quali essi sono attualmente stabiliti. Mentre Paesi transoceanici più piccoli, e con risorse più limitate, potrebbero anche essi accogliere, nei territori disponibili, un certo numero di ebrei, qualora, per mezzo di accordi internazionali, questa emigrazione venisse razionalmente organizzata.

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Ma quello che io ho sempre considerato e considero come la soluzione piu' pratica è la creazione, in qualche parte del mondo, di un vero e proprio Stato ebraico. L'esperimento della Jewish Home in Palestina è fallito, per condizioni storiche che erano assolutamente sfavorevoli alla creazione di uno Stato ebraico palestinese, ma l'idea di creare altrove tale Stato non dovrebbe essere abbandonata. Anche se questo fosse territorialmente un piccolo Stato, gli ebrei avrebbero tuttavia in esso, come hanno tutti gli altri popoli, il loro centro e la loro base nazionale. Gli ebrei, divenuti cittadini di questo Stato, avrebbero così una nazionalità ed una posizione definita, e, anche se stabiliti in altri Paesi, troverebbero da parte di questo Stato quella normale assistenza e quella tutela, che hanno tutti gli stranieri. Solamente così il problema ebraico cesserebbe di essere in Europa il problema insolubile di una minoranza, la sola, che è priva di una nazionalità.

Queste sono le idee che ho esposto all'Ambasciatore Phillips e che vi ho riassunto qui in breve. Io gradirei sempre da parte mia di studiare qualunque piano concreto che voi avrete intanto preso in consi-

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derazione, convinto come sono che una soluzione generale del problema ebraico sopra una base pratica sia altamente desiderabile.

Colgo questa occasione, caro Presidente, per ringraziarvi delle cortesi espressioni che nella vostra lettera mi avete dirette, e di inviarvi i miei migliori auguri e le assicurazioni della mia piu' alta considerazione.

Munich

Mussolini - Hitler

1939

Franklin D. ROOSEVELT

Presidente degli Stati Uniti d'America

WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE and
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE:

Do you think a reply to Signor
Mussolini's letter is advisable or called for?

F.D.R.

fdr/dj

Original letter in President's famous men's file.
carbon letter to accompany this memo.

Mussolini-Hall
PST
Haley
Mussolini-Hall
Haley

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

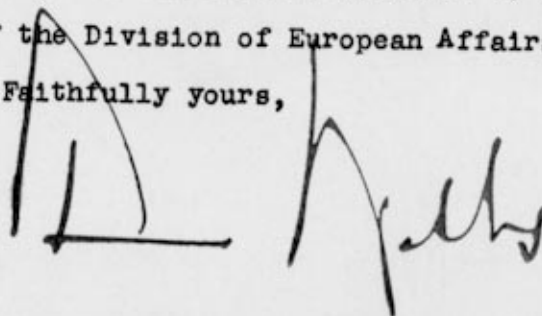
February 3, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a letter dated January 11, 1939, addressed to you by Premier Mussolini on the Jewish refugee question which is in reply to your letter to him on the same subject. Signor Mussolini's letter was delivered by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires ad interim on February 2.

In order to preserve the confidential nature of the communication, the translation was done by one of the officers of the Division of European Affairs.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

From Premier Mussolini
with translation.

The President

The White House.

[TRANSLATION]

Chief of the Government

Rome, January 11, 1939, XVII

Dear Mr. President:

Ambassador Phillips on his return from Washington handed me your letter and I have discussed with him the various points raised by you in the letter and in the memorandum which was annexed thereto. He will have informed you, certainly, of our conversation and you are therefore already acquainted with my point of view.

In so far as Ethiopia is concerned, it is not possible to consider the organization of Jewish emigration to that region. Apart from every other consideration, the general attitude of Jewish circles toward Italy is not such as to make it advisable for the Italian Government to receive on any of its territory large numbers of Jewish immigrants.

It is a question, moreover, not only of problems arising in connection with the situation of the Jews in Italy or in some other country, but of problems which are general in character, since the Jewish question exists, in various forms, in almost all European countries and must be considered therefore as a general European question in order to solve it along constructive lines.

In

In my opinion the only countries which can receive and settle large numbers of Jewish immigrants are those which have at their disposal within their national boundaries extensive areas sparsely populated and with large resources which can be adequately developed and exploited. These countries alone because of their extent and wealth are, in fact, able to give employment to large numbers of Jews who may have the intention of leaving the countries of Europe in which they are established at the present time. On the other hand smaller overseas countries with more limited resources might also be able to receive, in available areas, a certain number of Jews, provided the emigration is rationally organized by international agreements.

But that which I have always considered and still consider to be the most practical solution is the creation in some part of the world of a true and proper Jewish state. The experiment of the Jewish Home in Palestine has failed on account of historic conditions which were absolutely unfavorable to the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine, but the idea of creating such a state elsewhere should not be abandoned. Even though this state were to be small in territory, the Jews nevertheless would
find

find therein, as is the case with all other peoples, their center and basis of national existence. The Jews, having become citizens of this state, would thus have a nationality of their own and their situation defined, and, furthermore, when residing in other countries, they would receive from their own state the assistance and protection to which all foreigners are normally entitled from their respective states. Only in this way would the Jewish problem in Europe cease to be the insoluble problem of a minority - the only one - which is deprived of a nationality.

These are the ideas which I explained to Ambassador Phillips and which I have briefly summarized for you here. I, for my part, shall always be glad to study whatever concrete plan you will have taken under consideration in the meantime, convinced as I am that a general solution of the Jewish problem on a practical basis is highly desirable.

I take this occasion, my dear Mr. President, to thank you for the courteous expressions which you conveyed to me in your letter and to send you my best wishes and assurances of my highest consideration.

MUSSOLINI

February 8 1939

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MUSSOLINI

BERLIN.--FUEHRER HITLER HAILED THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF NAZI GERMANY TONIGHT WITH AN ADDRESS TO THE REICHSTAG REVIEWING CREATION OF A "GREATER GERMANY" IN 1938 AND POINTING THE NATION TOWARD NEW GOALS FOR 1939.

HE BEGAN SPEAKING AT 8:06 P.M. (2:06 P.M. EST).

1/30--R223P

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ADD HITLER, BERLIN

HITLER SAID THAT SIX YEARS AGO ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE GERMAN NATION WAS BEHIND HIS PROGRAM.

"NOW THERE IS UNANIMITY. THE BULK OF THE VOTES THEN WERE DIVIDED BETWEEN 35 POLITICAL GROUPS.

THE PICTURE OF COLLAPSE OF PRE-NAZI DAYS HAS BEGUN TO FADE, HITLER SAID. ADVERSARIES LAUGHED AT THE NAZI DREAM, HE SAID, BUT NOW THEY "HATE US AND FEAR US, BUT ESTEEM US."

HITLER HAD TAKEN HIS SEAT IN THE REICHSTAG AT 8 P.M. HERMANN WILHELM GOERING, HIS CHIEF AIDE, OPENED THE PROCEEDINGS WITH A BRIEF SPEECH.

HITLER SAID GERMANY WAS FACED AGAIN WITH THE SPECTACLE OF OVERCOMING ~~JEWISH~~-INTERNATIONAL HOSTILITY AGAINST "TRUE EUROPEAN CULTURE." HE SAID THE SIX YEARS BEHIND THE NAZI REGIME WERE FILLED WITH THE MOST MARVELOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF GERMAN HISTORY.

"TODAY I CAN FOR THE FIRST TIME SPEAK BEFORE THE REICHSTAG OF GREATER GERMANY."

IN THE LAST YEAR, HITLER SAID, THE DREAM OF CENTURIES HAD COME TRUE.

1/30--R225P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

HE SAID MILLIONS OF PERSONS HAD DIED DURING THE LAST DECADE FOR THE THINGS ACCOMPLISHED IN GERMANY IN 1938. HE REFERRED TO THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

MILLIONS OF GERMAN CITIZENS, HE SAID, WERE TORN FROM THE REICH, OR CONTRADICTION OF THE MUCH-VAUNTED RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION PREVENTED THEM FROM JOINING THE REICH.

AS FAR AS GERMANS WERE CONCERNED ALL THESE PIOUS SENTIMENTS HAD NO PRACTICAL VALUE, HE SAID.

"IN JANUARY 1938 I MADE UP MY MIND TO MAKE AUSTRIA PART OF GERMANY--AT WHATEVER COST.

1/30--R227P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

"IN FEBRUARY 1938 I SAID THAT THE REICH COULD NOT LONGER REMAIN INDIFFERENT TOWARD THE FATE OF THE MILLIONS OF GERMANS TORN FROM THE REICH AGAINST THEIR WILL.

"ON THE 9TH OF MARCH I GAVE ORDERS TO GERMAN INFANTRY DIVISIONS TO MARCH INTO AUSTRIA IN ORDER TO LIBERATE THE GERMAN TERRITORY."

THE POPULACE OF THE LIBERATED COUNTRY WAS "JUBILANT WHEN OUR TROOPS MARCHED IN, HITLER SAID. "ALL THIS HAPPENED IN A BREATH-TAKING TEMPO."

HITLER SAID THE ELECTION OF APRIL 1 SHOWED THAT AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WAS BEHIND THE NAZI PROGRAM.

1/30--R232P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

EUROPE HAS BEEN "RESCUED FROM THE RED PEST" BY NAZISM AND ITALIAN FASCISM, THE FUEHRER SAID, IN A LAUDATORY REFERENCE TO ITALIAN PREMIER BENITO MUSSOLINI.

OPPOSITION TO NAZISM HAS VANISHED IN THE REICH, THE FUEHRER DECLARED IN AN ADDRESS CELEBRATING THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS RISE TO POWER.

ADVERSARIES OF THE NAZIS MAY "HATE AND FEAR US, BUT THEY ESTEEM US," HITLER SAID, AND THE THREAT THAT GERMANY WOULD SINK INTO CHAOS HAS BEEN OVERCOME BECAUSE OF THE NAZI "MIRACLE."

HITLER THEN TURNED TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CRISIS. HE SAID THAT COUNTRY HAD BECOME THE SPEARHEAD OF ALL ANTI-GERMAN ACTIVITIES. MOBILIZATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS DESIGNED TO DEFEAT GERMANY IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, AND TO UNDERMINE GERMAN PRESTIGE, HE SAID.

GERMANY MOBILIZED, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE CZECHS DID, NOT BECAUSE THE NAZIS WANTED TO INTIMIDATE THEIR NEIGHBORS.

ON MAY 28, HE SAID, HE GAVE ORDERS FOR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

1/30--R235P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

HITLER PRAISED THE MILITARY MACHINE OF GERMANY WHICH HE SAID HAD PROVED ITSELF IN THE CRISIS.

"IF ANYBODY SAYS THAT GERMANY THREATENED THE PEACE OF EUROPE, THAT IS CONTRARY TO ALL KNOWN FACTS. GERMANY HAS NOT THREATENED ANYBODY. IT MERELY DEFENDED ITSELF AGAINST FOREIGN THREATS."

HE SAID GERMANY WOULD NEVER TOLERATE THE INTERFERENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN MATTERS OF PURELY GERMAN CONCERN.

"WE WERE ALL HAPPY WHEN, DUE TO THE INTERVENTION OF OUR FRIEND MUSSOLINI AND ALSO (PREMIER NEVILLE) CHAMBERLAIN (OF GREAT BRITAIN) THIS CRISIS HAD BEEN SOLVED PEACEFULLY. HOWEVER, WITHOUT OUR DETERMINATION TO CLEAR THE SITUATION AT ALL COST, SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE."

HE SAID GERMANY'S ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE APPROVED BY THE GERMAN PEOPLE WITH THE SAME OVERWHELMING MAJORITY AS THE AUSTRIAN ANSCHLUSS.

IN SHORT SENTENCES, HITLER DISCUSSED THE HISTORIC EVENTS OF 1938. HE SAID:

"IN THE 14 POINTS WHICH PRESIDENT WILSON ASSURED GERMANY IN THE NAME OF THE OTHER ALLIES WERE THE BASIS OF A NEWLY-ORGANIZED WORLD FREEDOM WAS INCLUDED THE ELEMENTARY CONCEPT OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION. AND IN THE SAME PERIOD THE ERSTWHILE ALLIES DID USE THAT CONCEPT WHEN IT COULD BE EXPLOITED FOR THEIR EGOISTIC PURPOSES.

"THUS GERMANY WAS DENIED THE RESTORATION OF HER COLONIAL POSSESSIONS WITH THE EXCUSE THAT ONE COULD SIMPLY NOT RETURN THEIR INHABITANTS BACK TO GERMANY AGAINST THEIR WILL--ABOUT WHICH NO ONE BOTHERED IN 1919.

"WHILE PRIMITIVE NEGRO TRIBES WERE BEING PROTECTED IN THE NAME OF SELF-DETERMINATION, THE FAIRLY CULTIVATED GERMAN PEOPLE IN 1918 WERE DEPRIVED OF THOSE GENERAL RIGHTS OF MAN WHICH HAD BEEN FORMALLY PROMISED. THE ARTICLE GOVERNING REVISION OF THE LEAGUE COVENANT RETAINED ONLY FORMAL SOLIDARITY."

HITLER SAID "IT SEEMED THAT ONLY A MIRACLE IN THE 12TH HOUR COULD SAVE GERMANY. OUR OPPONENTS LAUGHED AT OUR BELIEF IN THAT MIRACLE. THE GERMAN REICH, WHICH WAS SINKING INTO CHAOS, MIGHT HAVE PLUNGED ALL THE OCCIDENT INTO A CRISIS OF UNIMAGINEABLE DIMENSIONS.

HITLER PRAISED THE AID OF GOERING AND GOEBBELS AND FOREIGN MINISTER JOACHIM VON RIBBENTROP WAS GIVEN SPECIAL PRAISE.

HE SAID ONE IDEA HAD UNIFIED THE GERMAN PEOPLE. THIS HE SAID WAS THE DECISIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CREATION OF THE NEW GREATER GERMANY AND PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS. THEN THE PRINCES TRIED TO FORCE THE GERMAN TRIBES INTO AN EMPIRE; NOW THE MOVEMENT ORIGINATED WITH THE PEOPLE.

HITLER TOLD THE REICHSTAG DEPUTIES THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER REPRESENTATIVES OF "REGIONAL OR SPECIAL INTERESTS, BUT OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE."

HE SAID EVERYONE HAD LEARNED A LOT FROM THE HISTORY OF THE LAST 30 YEARS BUT THE MOST DECISIVE FACTOR IN ALL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS "WILL ALWAYS BE THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND UNANIMITY."

HITLER TOUCHED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH KURT SCHUSCHNIGG, LAST CHANCELLOR OF INDEPENDENT AUSTRIA, AT BERCHTESGADEN, AND HIS REICHSTAG SPEECH OF FEB. 22, 1938, REFERRING TO "SCHUSCHNIGG'S DECISION TO COMMIT A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE LOYAL AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN REACHED THERE."

HE SAID SO-CALLED DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES LEAD ONLY TO THE WASTE OF THE MOST VALUABLE FORCES OF A NATION.

"IT IS NONSENSE TO THINK THAT OBEDIENCE AND DISCIPLINE ARE MEANT ONLY FOR THE ARMED FORCES; THEY ARE EVEN MORE NECESSARY IN THE EVERY-DAY LIFE OF A NATION."

NATIONAL SOCIALISM, HE SAID, HAD ONE TIMELESS GOAL: TO CREATE A REAL AND GENUINE COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS AMONG THE PEOPLE.

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

THOSE GERMANS WHO DO NOT APPRECIATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NAZIS ARE DEAD ON THEIR FEET OR INSANE, HE SAID.

"WITH THEM ONE CANNOT MAKE HISTORY, THEY ARE WORTHLESS AND WE CAN IGNORE THEM."

ONLY THE ARDENT IDEALISTS, HE SAID, THOSE WHO INCESSANTLY STRIVE FOR GREATER NATIONAL GLORY ARE WORTHY MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

CONTINUATION OF THE "PRESENT DRIVE" WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE NAZI PARTY, HE SAID. ONLY WITHIN THE PARTY CAN BE FOUND THE CONSTRUCTIVE FORCES NECESSARY FOR "THIS TASK."

IN REVIEWING THE CZECH CRISIS AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE CZECH MOBILIZATION, HITLER SAID:

"BECAUSE OF THIS UNBEARABLE PROVOCATION, WHICH WAS MADE WORSE BY THE WHOLLY INFAMOUS PERSECUTION AND TERRORIZATION OF GERMANS, I DETERMINED TO SOLVE THE SUDETEN QUESTION CONCLUSIVELY AND RADICALLY.

"MILITARY PREPARATIONS EMBRACING THE ENTIRE ARMY, THE SA AND SS (STORM TROOPS) AND IN THE CASE OF AUSTRIA ALSO NUMEROUS POLICE AND TROOPS, PROVED OF EXTRAORDINARY WORTH.

"IF THE WORLD WANTS TO JUMP TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GERMANY THEREBY THREATENED OTHER PEOPLES THROUGH MILITARY BLACKMAIL, THIS CONCLUSION IS BASED ON A GROSS DISTORTION OF FACTS. IN A TERRITORY WHERE NEITHER THE ENGLISH NOR OTHER WESTERN NATIONS HAVE ANYTHING TO SEEK, GERMANY ESTABLISHED THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR 10,000,000 GERMANS."

1/30--R309P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

REGARDING NAZI LEADERSHIP, HITLER SAID:

"IN FILLING OFFICES, CHARACTER, ESPECIALLY COURAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MERE INTELLECTUAL OR SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATIONS.

"IN A CRITICAL HOUR, ONE ENERGETIC MAN IS WORTH MORE THAN A THOUSAND INTELLECTUAL BABBLERS. THE WHOLE NATION MUST BE REFORMED IN THIS SENSE.

1/30--R310P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

GERMANY, HE SAID, HAD SOLVED ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNAL ORGANIZATION. HE COMPARED GERMANY, WHERE HE SAID 90 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT WITH "DEMOCRACIES" IN WHICH NO PARTY CAN CLAIM MUCH MAJORITY SUPPORT.

HE SAID THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE REICH WAS NOT A MATTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEBATE. HE SAID NATIONAL SOCIALISM DOES NOT KNOW THE WORD "CAPITULATION" NEITHER IN INTERNAL, NOR IN EXTERNAL POLITICS.

HE DENOUNCED THE "CLIQUE" OF INTERNATIONAL WAR MONGERS.

IT WAS IMPUDENCE, HITLER SAID, TO ASSUME THAT GOD HAD CREATED THE WORLD ONLY FOR ONE OR TWO IMPERIALISTIC NATIONS. GERMANY, HE SAID, HAD THE SAME RIGHT TO ACCESS TO THE RICHES OF THE WORLD AS ANY OTHER NATION.

1/30--R319P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

ALL OF THE THINGS FOR WHICH THE WORLD WAR MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOUGHT-- THE DESTRUCTION OF GERMAN TRADE, OR OF THE GERMAN FLEET OR OF GERMANY IN GENERAL--HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED, HE SAID.

REPARATION AND LEVIES AS THE RESULT OF THE WAR RAN COUNTER TO ALL ECONOMIC COMMON SENSE, HE DECLARED. THE ATTITUDE OF THE VICTORS AFTER THE WAR WAS UNREASONABLE AND IRRESPONSIBLE. THE NEED TO MAKE REPARATION PAYMENTS COMPELLED GERMANY TO MORE COMPETITIVE EFFORTS THAN EVER IN THE WORLD MARKET IN ORDER TO GET NECESSARY FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

HE SAID THERE WERE ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES: EITHER THE RICHES OF THE WORLD ARE DISTRIBUTED BY MAIN FORCE, OR ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF REASONS. IF THE FORMER WERE TRUE A FORCEFUL REDISTRIBUTION WAS INEVITABLE FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE MERE DECLARATION THAT THERE ARE TWO CLASSES OF NATIONS--THE HAVE AND THE HAVE-NOTS--WILL NOT SOLVE ANY PROBLEM, HITLER SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS A GRAVE MISTAKE TO ASSUME THAT NATIONS LIKE GERMANY AND ITALY COULD BE SAFELY RELEGATED TO SECOND CLASS RANKS FOREVER.

1/30 ON331P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

HE SAID THE CAPITALISTIC NATIONS HAD DISTURBED WORLD TRADE BY CURRENCY MANIPULATIONS.

ANY GERMAN REGIME, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE TO PURSUE THE SAME ECONOMIC POLICIES AS THE NAZIS UNLESS THEY TOLERATED THE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN COLLAPSE OF THE NATION.

"WE LIVE IN A TIME FILLED BY THE SHRIEKS OF DEMOCRATIC UPLIFTERS," HITLER SAID. "TO HEAR THEM, ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE GERMAN NATION BEGS TO BE DELIVERED BY THOSE HUMANITARIANS WHOSE PRACTICES WE TESTED DURING 15 YEARS AFTER THE WAR.

THEIR NEWSPAPERS DAILY ARE FILLED WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR DIFFICULTIES AND FORECASTS OF A CRISIS IN OUR FINANCES, OUR CONSUMPTION AND OUR PRODUCTIONS. THEIR DIAGNOSES ARE OFTEN CONTRADICTIONARY. ONE SAYS OVER-PRODUCTION, OTHERS SAY UNDER-CONSUMPTION.

SOME SAY THAT WE ARE RUINED BY DEBT AND OTHERS THAT WE HAVE THROWN PRIVATE PROPERTY OVERBOARD.

GERMANY IS OVER-POPULATED. IT HAS 135 PEOPLE PER SQUARE KILOMETER. IT HAD BEEN EXPLOITED FOR 15 YEARS. I ASK THE QUESTION: WHICH DEMOCRATIC REGIME WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CORRECT THIS?

"SOME DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES HAVE ONLY 10 INHABITANTS PER SQUARE KILOMETER. THEY HAVE FARMS AND RAW MATERIALS BUT ARE UNABLE TO SOLVE THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND UNEMPLOYMENT. YET SPOKESMEN FOR THESE COUNTRIES LAUD THE SUPERIORITY OF THE DEMOCRACIES. THEY MAY DO IT AS FAR AS THEIR COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED, BUT WE HAVE ABSORBED 7,000,000 UNEMPLOYED, THANKS TO OUR REGIME."

1/30--R337P

ADD HITLER, BERLIN

AS HITLER'S SPEECH PROGRESSED, AN IMPORTANT UNDERLYING THEME APPEARED TO BE EMERGING. IT WAS AN OUTLINE OF THE ADMITTEDLY "GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION" IN GERMANY AND A WARNING TO THE WORLD POWERS THAT THE REICH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN "EXPLOSIVE FACTOR" UNTIL SHE HAS THE THINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES NECESSARY TO BE A PROSPEROUS EXISTENCE.

THUS, THE FUEHRER SAID, GERMANY MUST HAVE EITHER INCREASED MARKETS FOR HER MANUFACTURED GOODS OR "LEBENSRAUM" -- WHICH IS THE GERMAN WORD MEANING OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HITLER APPEARED TO BE LAYING A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATING WITH BRITAIN AND FRANCE FOR MEANS BY WHICH GERMANY COULD HAVE FREE AND UNHAMPERED ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS AND EQUALITY IN EXPORT MARKETS.

1/30--R351P

April 10, 1939.

You will realize I am sure that throughout the world hundreds of millions of human beings are deeply disturbed by the belief that a new war or a series of wars may now or in the near future threaten humanity.

Such a belief, such a possibility is of definite concern to the United States of America, to the people of the twenty other American Republics and to the people of our next door neighbor, the Dominion of Canada. For all of them know that even if a major war were to be confined to other Continents, its immediate and future effects would bear heavily on the peaceful and prosperous existence of the inhabitants of North, Central and South America.

On a previous occasion I have addressed you in behalf of the peaceful settlement, without resort to arms, of political, economic and social problems. At the same time, I have on other occasions pleaded with your government in the cause of the reduction of armaments throughout the world.

The position and policy of the United States, and, indeed, of all the other nations of the Americas, is well known to you. This has been a consistent and unselfish policy for many years.

It is, however, necessary to take cognizance of certain events which have made international peace less and less secure; because if similar events grow in number it is obvious that the whole world must become involved in them either through war or through the results of war.

We have seen terminated the independent existence of one independent nation in Africa, of three independent nations in Europe, and we have seen the military occupation of a vast territory of an independent nation in the Far East by her Far Eastern neighbor.

We are receiving reports, which we trust are not true, that further acts of aggression are contemplated against other nations, now independent in their political, social and economic existence.

It is my thought that the time has come for a frank statement relating to the present and future policy of your government with respect to the future existence of your neighbor governments, and I, therefore, believe that the cause of world peace will be helped if you will be good enough to express to me, as the head of a nation far removed from Europe, your policy.

Having read many assertions by you that you and the U people have no desire for war, can you give me assurances that your armed forces will not attack or invade the territory of the following independent nations: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Lichenstein, ^{Luxembourg} Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, the Arabias, Palestine, Egypt and Persia.

I ask this question in the name of humanity -- not insofar as it applies only to the present day, but also insofar as your policy relates to the future, ~~policy~~.

The world needs a long vacation from its thoughts of and preparation for war and, therefore, in using the word "future" I ask that you construe it to apply to a minimum future period -- ten years at the least -- a quarter of a century, if you can look that far ahead.

Such a declaration of peaceful intent, -- such a declaration that your armies would not enter into the territory of any of the nations which I have enumerated, would and properly should be qualified by the inherent right in your own nation to repel an attack against you

by the invasion of your own territory by official and substantial armed forces of your neighbors. But I am reasonably certain that all of the nations I have enumerated would gladly give you full assurance that none of their armed forces would in the immediate or long-range future invade your territory.

It occurs to me that if you can find yourself able to make a declaration such as I have outlined, such a step would bring ^{to all of us} ~~you~~ not only a great immediate relief from what the world regards as a definite danger, but ~~you~~ that it would also give to all the nations of the world an opportunity in peaceful surroundings to discuss other problems which are of interest to all.

^{halting and} I refer especially to discussion of the problem of reduction of costly armaments throughout the world; to discussion of the unblocking of the avenues of peaceful trade; to the peaceful discussion of economic and social problems which affect so many nations.

In other words, while we recognize that there are many complex world problems affecting all of humanity, we know that study and discussion of them must be held in an atmosphere of peace.

That is why I make to you the definite suggestion which would restore this atmosphere of peace and give all of us the opportunity to confer in small groups or large, with the knowledge that our conversations would not be overshadowed by the fear of war.

I hope that you will not misunderstand the spirit and the frankness in which I send you this; and I hope that your answer will make it possible for humanity for many years to come to gain that feeling of security against war which will enable humanity to avoid armed conflict at least during our generation.

1939

750-1000000
April 21 Hitler

You realize, I am sure, that throughout the world hundreds of millions of human beings feel that they are living today under the shadow of the fear of a new war or even a series of wars.

The possibility of such a conflict is of definite concern to the people of the United States, as also to the peoples of the entire Western Hemisphere. All of them know that a major war, even if confined to other continents, must bear heavily on them both now and for generations to come.

If the tide of events is not changed, much of the world must become involved in common ruin, and all the world will suffer. I refuse to believe that the world is a prisoner of destiny. On the contrary I am sure that the leaders of the great nations have it in their power to liberate their peoples from the impending disaster. I am equally clear that the peoples have in their own minds and hearts the desire to loose themselves from that disaster.

Three nations in Europe, and one in Africa, have seen their independent existence terminated. A vast territory in another independent nation in the Far East has been occupied by a neighboring state. Reports, which we trust are not true, insist that further acts of aggression are contemplated against still other independent nations.

nations. Plainly we are moving toward the moment when this situation must end in ^{catastrophe} disaster, unless a more rational way of guiding events is found.

You have repeatedly asserted that you and the Italian people have no desire for war. If this is true, there need be no war.

[Governments, not peoples, create war.] If instead of peaceful settlement, peoples are now to be led, under a policy of aggrandizement by force, to slaughter by millions, let one thing be perfectly plain. The husband, leaving his wife and children, must know in his heart that the wreck of his life is unnecessary. The soldier in his death agony must know that he is dying in vain. The officer who commands must know that he is sending his men to death in a vast stupidity. All of these individuals must realize that they are being sacrificed not at all in a war of necessary self-defense. Nothing can persuade me that any power has either the right or the necessity to inflict these consequences on its own or any other people in pursuit of any policy save the most immediate self-protection.

In making this statement we, as Americans, need not be suspected either of self-seeking (for we have no selfish designs) or of fear, or of weakness. If we speak now, it is with the voice of strength and friendship, and not that of weakness or fear or hatred. All
the

the world knows that this is true.

Having these considerations in mind I propose:

That you give assurance that your forces will not attack the territory of any of the existing independent nations of Europe, or violate their integrity, or cross their frontiers. In such case I am reasonably sure that each of those nations will in turn give like assurance to you.

That there be immediate cessation of moves of armed forces which by their nature might constitute a threat.

That this shall serve as an earnest of good faith during discussions to be held;

That thereupon, in peaceful surroundings, two essential problems shall promptly be discussed: relief from the crushing burden of armament, and the unlocking of avenues of trade to the end that every country may have assured access to ample material for full peaceful economic life, carried on according to its own national desires. In this conference, I stand ready to pledge the participation of the United States.

At the same time all necessary political discussions may be organized and had between other governments which are directly interested.

A declaration under the conditions outlined will bring to the world an immediate measure of relief. It
will

will give to all nations an opportunity, peacefully to discuss the major problems of direct interest to them unbound by menace of immediate force. From these discussions, a permanent relief should follow.

I think you will not misunderstand the spirit of frankness in which I send you this. Heads of great governments in this hour are literally responsible for the fate of humanity in the coming years. They cannot deny the just demands of their peoples to be protected from a plainly foreseeable chaos. History will hold them accountable for the lives and happiness of everyone, even the least. I confidently trust that you will make it possible for history to say, and for humanity to bear witness, that this responsibility was met.

1st draft of message to Hitler - Thucydides

April 10, 1939.

You will realize I am sure that throughout the world hundreds of millions of human beings are deeply disturbed by the belief that a new war or a series of wars may now or in the near future threaten humanity.

Such a belief, such a possibility is of definite concern to the United States of America, to the people of the twenty other American Republics and to the people of our next door neighbor, the Dominion of Canada. For all of them know that even if a major war were to be confined to other Continents, its immediate and future effects would bear heavily on the peaceful and prosperous existence of the inhabitants of North, Central and South America.

On a previous occasion I have addressed you in behalf of the peaceful settlement, without resort to arms, of political, economic and social problems. At the same time, I have on other occasions pleaded with your government in the cause of the reduction of armaments throughout the world.

The position and policy of the United States, and, indeed, of all the other nations of the Americas, is well known to you. This has been a consistent and unselfish policy for many years.

It is, however, necessary to take cognizance of certain events which have made international peace less and less secure; because if similar events grow in number it is obvious that the whole world must become involved in them either through war or through the results of war.

We have seen terminated the independent existence of one independent nation in Africa, of three independent nations in Europe, and we have seen the military occupation of a vast territory of an independent nation in the Far East by her Far Eastern neighbor.

We are receiving reports, which we trust are not true, that further acts of aggression are contemplated against other nations, now independent in their political, social and economic existence.

It is my thought that the time has come for a frank statement relating to the present and future policy of your government with respect to the future existence of your neighbor governments, and I, therefore, believe that the cause of world peace will be helped if you will be good enough to express to me, as the head of a nation far removed from Europe, your policy.

Having read many assertions by you that you and the 6 people have no desire for war, can you give me assurances that your armed forces will not attack or invade the territory of the following independent nations: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Lichenstein, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, the Arabias, Palestine, Egypt and Persia.

I ask this question in the name of humanity -- not insofar as it applies only to the present day, but also insofar as your policy relates to the future policy.

The world needs a long vacation from its thoughts of and preparation for war and, therefore, in using the word "future" I ask that you construe it to apply to a minimum future period -- ten years at the least -- a quarter of a century, if you can look that far ahead.

Such a declaration of peaceful intent -- such a declaration that your armies would not enter into the territory of any of the nations which I have enumerated would and properly should be qualified by the inherent right in your own nation to repel an attack against you

by the invasion of your own territory by official and substantial armed forces of your neighbors. But I am reasonably certain that all of the nations I have enumerated would gladly give you full assurance that none of their armed forces would in the immediate or long-range future invade your territory.

It occurs to me that if you can find yourself able to make a declaration such as I have outlined, such a step would bring ~~you~~ not only a great immediate relief from what the world regards as a definite danger, but ~~would~~ that it would also give to all the nations of the world an opportunity in peaceful surroundings to discuss other problems which are of interest to all.

I refer especially to discussion of the problem of reduction of costly armaments throughout the world; to discussion of the unblocking of the avenues of peaceful trade; to the peaceful discussion of economic and social problems which affect so many nations.

In other words, while we recognize that there are many complex world problems affecting all of humanity, we know that study and discussion of them must be held in an atmosphere of peace.

That is why I make to you the definite suggestion which would restore this atmosphere of peace and give all of us the opportunity to confer in small groups or large, with the knowledge that our conversations would not be overshadowed by the fear of war.

I hope that you will not misunderstand the spirit and the frankness in which I send you this; and I hope that your answer will make it possible for humanity for many years to come to gain that feeling of security against war which will enable humanity to avoid armed conflict at least during our generation.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1939.

FILE:

Earlier draft of message to
Hitler and Mussolini.

F.D.R.

BoF Italy
Mussolini - Hitler
Fischer

You realize, I am sure, that throughout the world hundreds of millions of human beings feel that they are living today under the shadow of the fear of a new war or even a series of wars.

The existence of this fear -- and the possibility of such a conflict is of definite concern to the people of the United States, as also to the peoples of the other nations of the entire Western Hemisphere. All of them know that any major war, even if it were to be confined to other continents, must bear heavily on them during its continuance and also for generations to come.

On a previous occasion I have addressed you in behalf of the settlement of political, economic and social problems by peaceful methods and without resort to arms.

But the tide of events seems to have reverted to the threat of arms. If such threats continue, it seems inevitable that much of the world must become involved in common ruin. All the world, victor nations, vanquished nations and neutral nations will suffer. I refuse to believe that the world is, of necessity, such a prisoner of destiny.

On the contrary, I am sure that the leaders of the great nations have it in their power to liberate their peoples from the disaster that threatens. I am equally clear that in their own minds and their own hearts the peoples themselves desire that their fears be ended.

Notwithstanding my faith in the innate decency of mankind, it is unfortunately necessary to take cognizance of recent facts.

Three nations in Europe, and one in Africa, have seen their independent existence terminated. A vast territory in another independent nation in the Far East has been occupied by a neighboring state. Reports, which we trust are not true, insist that further acts of aggression are contemplated against still other independent nations. Plainly we are moving toward the moment when this situation must end in catastrophe, unless a more rational way of guiding events is found.

You have repeatedly asserted that you and the Italian people have no desire for war. If this is true, there need be no war.

victims
If, on the other hand, peoples are now to be led, under a policy of aggrandizement by force, to slaughter by millions, let one thing be perfectly plain: the soldier wounded at the front, the men, women and children bombed in their homes, the widows and orphans who survive must realize now and know forever that they are sacrificed in a war which time will not record as a war of self-defense. Nothing can persuade me that any governing power has any right or need on God's earth to inflict the consequences of war on its own or any other people save in the cause of self-evident self-protection.

I believe for people everywhere
In making this statement we, as Americans, speak not through self-seeking or fear or weakness. If we speak now, it is with the voice of strength and friendship for mankind. All the world knows that this is true. It is still clear to me that international problems can be solved at the council table.

It is equally clear to me that no solution can be arrived at by council and negotiation if one party to the conversation carries a gun in one hand and a grenade in the other. In the pioneer days of America, courts of justice followed the frontiersman, but it was a well-established rule that all arms were left outside the courtroom.

It is, therefore, no answer to the plea for peaceful discussion for one side to plead that unless they receive assurances beforehand that the verdict will be theirs, they will not lay aside their arms. In conference rooms, as in courts, it is necessary that both sides enter upon the discussion in good faith, assuming that substantial justice will accrue to both.

It is the general impression
~~I believe~~ that the time is past due for a frank statement *of*
~~relating to~~ the present and future policy of your government with respect to the future independent existence of your neighbor governments.

It follows that the cause of world peace will be helped if you will express your policy to me as the head of a nation far removed from Europe.

Can you give me assurance that your armed forces will not attack or invade the territory of ^{any of} the following independent nations? Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, the Arabias, Palestine, Egypt and Persia.

Such an assurance clearly must apply not only to the present day but also to a future sufficiently long to give every opportunity to work by peaceful methods for a more permanent peace. I suggest, therefore, that you construe the word future to apply to a minimum period of assured non-aggression -- ten years at the least -- a quarter of a century, if we dare look that far ahead.

If such assurance is given by your government and the German government, I ~~am reasonably sure~~ ^{have no doubt} that each of the nations enumerated above will in turn give like assurance to you.

A declaration such as I have outlined will bring to the world an immediate measure of relief. I propose that if it is given two essential problems shall promptly be discussed in the resulting peaceful surroundings: relief from the crushing burden of armament, and the unlocking of avenues of trade to the end that every nation may have assured access to ~~the~~ materials and products for peaceful economic life; ^{both to be determined immediately.}

And at the same time such political discussions as are necessary or desirable may be organized and had between ^{other} governments which are directly interested.

We recognize complex world problems which affect all humanity but we know that study and discussion of them must be held in an atmosphere of peace. Such an atmosphere of peace cannot exist if ~~the~~ conversations are overshadowed by the ^{constant} fear of war.

I think you will not misunderstand the spirit of frankness in which I send you this. Heads of great governments in this hour are literally responsible for the fate of humanity in the coming years. They cannot fail to hear the prayers of their peoples to be protected from the foreseeable chaos of war. History will hold

them accountable for the lives and the happiness of all -- even unto the least.

I hope that your answer will make it possible for humanity to lose fear and regain security for many years to come.

- - - - -

PREPARING OFFICE
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OR
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TELEGRAM SENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~Department of State~~

TO BE TRANSMITTED
CONFIDENTIAL CODE XX
NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE
PARTIAL
PLAIN

Washington,

1939 APR 14 PM 7 45

April 14, 1939

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

HIS EXCELLENCY

ADOLF HITLER,

CHANCELOR OF THE GERMAN REICH,

BERLIN (GERMANY)

You realize I am sure that throughout the world
hundreds of millions of human beings are living today
in constant fear of a new war or even a series of wars.

The existence of this fear--and the possibility of
such a conflict--is of definite concern to the people
of the United States for whom I speak, as it must also
be to the peoples of the other nations of the entire
Western Hemisphere. All of them know that any major
war, even if it were to be confined to other continents,
must bear heavily on them during its continuance and
also for generations to come.

Because of the fact that after the acute tension
in which the world has been living during the past few
weeks there would seem to be at least a momentary relax-
ation--because no troops are at this moment on the march--
this may be an opportune moment for me to send you this

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19 _____

PREPARING OFFICE
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TELEGRAM SENT

Department of State

TO BE TRANSMITTED
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-2-

Washington,

message.

On a previous occasion I have addressed you in behalf of the settlement of political, economic, and social problems by peaceful methods and without resort to arms.

But the tide of events seems to have reverted to the threat of arms. If such threats continue, it seems inevitable that much of the world must become involved in common ruin. All the world, victor nations, vanquished nations, and neutral nations will suffer. I refuse to believe that the world is, of necessity, such a prisoner of destiny. On the contrary, it is clear that the leaders of great nations have it in their power to liberate their peoples from the disaster that impends. It is equally clear that in their own minds and in their own hearts the peoples themselves desire that their fears be ended.

It is, however, unfortunately necessary to take cognizance of recent facts.

Three nations in Europe and one in Africa have seen their independent existence terminated. A vast territory in another independent nation of the Far East has been occupied by a neighboring state. Reports,

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19____

PREPARING OFFICE
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Washington,

which we trust are not true, insist that further acts of aggression are contemplated against still other independent nations. Plainly the world is moving toward the moment when this situation must end in catastrophe unless a more rational way of guiding events is found.

You have repeatedly asserted that you and the German people have no desire for war. If this is true there need be no war.

Nothing can persuade the peoples of the earth that any governing power has any right or need to inflict the consequences of war on its own or any other people save in the cause of self-evident ~~self-protection~~ ^{home defense}.

In making this statement we as Americans speak not through selfishness or fear or weakness. If we speak now it is with the voice of strength and ^{with} friendship for mankind. It is still clear to me that international problems can be solved at the council table.

It is therefore no answer to the plea for peaceful discussion for one side to plead that unless they receive assurances beforehand that the verdict will be theirs, they will not lay aside their arms. In conference rooms, as in courts, it is necessary that both sides enter upon the discussion in good faith, assuming that substantial

justice will accrue to both; ^{and it is customary and necessary} ~~that they leave their arms outside the room~~ ^{where they confer.}

Enciphered by

Sent by operator

M.,

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Washington,

I am convinced that the cause of world peace will *would* be greatly advanced if the nations of the world were to obtain a frank statement relating to the present and future policy of governments.

Because the United States, as one of the nations of the Western Hemisphere, is not involved in the immediate controversies which have arisen in Europe, I trust that you may be willing to make such a statement of policy to me as the head of a nation far removed from Europe in order that I, *acting only with the* without responsibility *and* obligation ~~save these~~ of a friendly intermediary, may communicate such declaration to other nations now apprehensive as to the course which the policy of your Government may take.

Are you willing to give assurance that your armed forces will not attack or invade the territory or possessions of the following independent nations: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Iraq, the Arabias, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Iran.

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19____

D. O. R.—No. 50

1-1402 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The original of this page is on display on Panel 29 South Section of Main Gallery (Feb. 1971)

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Department of State

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-5-

Washington,

Such an assurance clearly must apply not only to the present day but also to a future sufficiently long to give every opportunity to work by peaceful methods for a more permanent peace. I therefore suggest that you construe the word QUOTE future UNQUOTE to apply to a minimum period of assured non-aggression--ten years at the least--a quarter of a century, if we dare look that far ahead.

If such assurance is given by your Government, I will immediately transmit it to the governments of the nations I have named and I will simultaneously inquire whether, as I am reasonably sure, each of the nations enumerated above will in turn give like assurance for transmission to you.

Reciprocal assurances such as I have outlined will bring to the world an immediate measure of relief.

I propose that if it is given, two essential problems shall promptly be discussed in the resulting peaceful surroundings, and in those discussions the Government of the United States will gladly take part.

The discussions which I have in mind relate to the most effective and immediate manner through which the peoples of the world can obtain progressive relief from the crushing burden of armament which is each day

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Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19____, _____

PREPARING OFFICE
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PARTIAL
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Washington,

bringing them more closely to the brink of economic disaster. Simultaneously the Government of the United States would be prepared to take part in discussions looking towards the most practical manner of opening up avenues of international trade to the end that every nation of the earth may be enabled to buy and sell on equal terms in the world market as well as to possess assurance of obtaining the materials and products of peaceful economic life.

At the same time, those governments other than the United States which are directly interested could undertake such political discussions as they may consider necessary or desirable.

We recognize complex world problems which affect all humanity but we know that study and discussion of them must be held in an atmosphere of peace. Such an atmosphere of peace cannot exist if negotiations are overshadowed by the ^{threat of force or by the} fear of war.

I think you will not misunderstand the spirit of frankness in which I send you this message. Heads of great governments in this hour are literally responsible for the fate of humanity in the coming years. They cannot fail to hear the prayers of their peoples to be protected from the foreseeable chaos of war.

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19____

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Department of State

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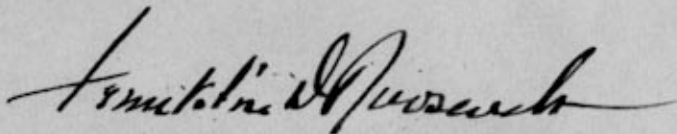
Washington,

TO BE TRANSMITTED
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PLAIN

History will hold them accountable for the lives and
the happiness of all--even unto the least.

I hope that your answer will make it possible for
humanity to lose fear and regain security for many
years to come.

A similar message is being addressed to the Chief
of the Italian Government.



(The President's signature)

U:SW:DMK

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19____, _____

1.
FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Italy
P50 - 1000000
Hitler's Plan
JFK
JFK
April 15, 1939

The President last night addressed the following communication to His Excellency, Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of the German Reich and, at the same time, the Secretary of State, at the President's direction, addressed an identical cablegram to Premier Benito Mussolini, of Italy.

"THE WHITE HOUSE

April 14, 1939

HIS EXCELLENCY
ADOLF HITLER,
CHANCELLOR OF THE GERMAN REICH,
BERLIN (GERMANY)

You realize I am sure that throughout the world hundreds of millions of human beings are living today in constant fear of a new war or even a series of wars.

The existence of this fear--and the possibility of such a conflict--is of definite concern to the people of the United States for whom I speak, as it must also be to the peoples of the other nations of the entire Western Hemisphere. All of them know that any major war, even if it were to be confined to other continents, must bear heavily on them during its continuance and also for generations to come.

Because of the fact that after the acute tension in which the world has been living during the past few weeks there would seem to be at least a momentary relaxation--because no troops are at this moment on the march--this may be an opportune moment for me to send you this message. *Public
Info
Office*

On a previous occasion I have addressed you in behalf of the settlement of political, economic, and social problems by peaceful methods and without resort to arms.

But the tide of events seems to have reverted to the threat of arms. If such threats continue, it seems inevitable that much of the world must become involved in common ruin. All the world, victor nations, vanquished nations, and neutral nations will suffer. I refuse to believe that the world is, of necessity, such a prisoner of destiny. On the contrary, it is clear that the leaders of great nations have it in their power to liberate their peoples from the disaster that impends. It is equally clear that in their own minds and in their own hearts the peoples themselves desire that their fears be ended.

It is, however, unfortunately necessary to take cognizance of recent facts.

Three nations in Europe and one in Africa have seen their independent existence terminated. A vast territory in another independent nation of the Far East has been occupied by a neighboring state. Reports, which we trust are not true, insist that further acts of aggression are contemplated against still other independent nations. Plainly the world is moving toward the moment when this situation must end in catastrophe unless a more rational way of guiding events is found.

You have repeatedly asserted that you and the German people have no desire for war. If this is true there need be no war.

Nothing can persuade the peoples of the earth that any governing power has any right or need to inflict the consequences of war on its own or any other people save in the cause of self-evident home defense.

In making this statement we as Americans speak not through selfishness or fear or weakness. If we speak now it is with the voice of strength and with friendship for mankind. It is still clear to me that international problems can be solved at the council table.

It is therefore no answer to the plea for peaceful discussion for one side to plead that unless they receive assurances beforehand that the verdict will be theirs, they will not lay aside their arms. In conference rooms, as in courts, it is necessary that both sides enter upon the discussion in good faith, assuming that substantial justice will accrue to both; and it is customary and necessary that they leave their arms outside the room where they confer.

I am convinced that the cause of world peace would be greatly advanced if the nations of the world were to obtain a frank statement relating to the present and future policy of governments.

Because the United States, as one of the nations of the Western Hemisphere, is not involved in the immediate controversies which have arisen in Europe, I trust that you may be willing to make such a statement of policy to me as the head of a nation far removed from Europe in order that I, acting only with the responsibility and obligation of a friendly intermediary, may communicate such declaration to other nations now apprehensive as to the course which the policy of your Government may take.

Are you willing to give assurance that your armed forces will not attack or invade the territory or possessions of the following independent nations: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Iraq, the Arabias, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Iran.

Such an assurance clearly must apply not only to the present day but also to a future sufficiently long to give every opportunity to work by peaceful methods for a more permanent peace. I therefore suggest that you construe the word QUOTE future UNQUOTE to apply to a minimum period of assured non-aggression--ten years at the least--a quarter of a century, if we dare look that far ahead.

If such assurance is given by your Government, I will immediately transmit it to the governments of the nations I have named and I will simultaneously inquire whether, as I am reasonably sure, each of the nations enumerated above will in turn give like assurance for transmission to you.

Reciprocal assurances such as I have outlined will bring to the world an immediate measure of relief.

I propose that if it is given, two essential problems shall promptly be discussed in the resulting peaceful surroundings, and in those discussions the Government of the United States will gladly take part.

The discussions which I have in mind relate to the most effective and immediate manner through which the peoples of the world can obtain progressive relief from the crushing burden of armament which is each day bringing them more closely to the brink of economic disaster. Simultaneously the Government of the United States would be prepared to take part in discussions looking towards the most practical manner of opening up avenues of international trade to the end that every nation of the earth may be enabled to buy and sell on equal terms in the world market as well as to possess assurance of obtaining the materials and products of peaceful economic life.

At the same time, those governments other than the United States which are directly interested could undertake such political discussions as they may consider necessary or desirable.

We recognize complex world problems which affect all humanity but we know that study and discussion of them must be held in an atmosphere of peace. Such an atmosphere of peace cannot exist if negotiations are overshadowed by the threat of force or by the fear of war.

I think you will not misunderstand the spirit of frankness in which I send you this message. Heads of great governments in this hour are literally responsible for the fate of humanity in the coming years. They cannot fail to hear the prayers of their peoples to be protected from the foreseeable chaos of war. History will hold them accountable for the lives and the happiness of all--even unto the least.

I hope that your answer will make it possible for humanity to lose fear and regain security for many years to come.

A similar message is being addressed to the Chief of the Italian Government.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

PSF Italy; Mussolini -
Hull's files

M.F.

[4-16-39]

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE PRESIDENT

SYMPOSIUM OF REPLIES RECEIVED

BY 12 NOON APRIL 16, 1939

ARGENTINA

BOLIVIA

The American Minister at La Paz, Mr. Caldwell, telegraphed on April 15 that after reading the President's message, the Foreign Minister stated that he "had no hesitation in expressing his complete accord with the plan for peace and his earnest hope that a prompt affirmative reply may be received from the recipients".

BRAZIL

The following message was received on April 16 from President Vargas:

"I read with great esteem Your Excellency's telegram defining with serene frankness the responsibility of war and showing the road of peace. The high nature of Your Excellency's objective and the generosity of your appeal, supported by the prestige of the great American Nation which Your Excellency represents and embodies, place you in the position of a leader of our continent who, distant from the conflicts

that

that menace Europe, may express himself impartially. Your Excellency's words cannot but have a sympathetic repercussion in all Brazil and provoke the applause of its Government."

Dr. Oswaldo Aranha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, made the following statement on April 15 to Mr. Scotten, American Chargé d'Affaires at Rio de Janeiro:

"The message of President Roosevelt was received as a new perspective for peace.

"The message coincides with the aims and aspirations of the Brazilian Government and the Brazilian people for which reason it will receive the most unanimous and decided applause of Brazil".

CANADA

Mr. Simmons, the American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Ottawa, has received the following statement from Prime Minister Mackenzie King:

"At a moment of supreme concern, the President has acted with characteristic initiative and courage. His frank and realistic message is directed to the leaders and the peoples of two great European countries, but it is of vital interest to the people of every country. It gives the world a chance to halt on the brink of catastrophe.

"The very fact that the danger is diffused, that there is no single issue, no one point of tension, has made it difficult to deal with the present situation. Now, the head of a great country, who appreciates what a conflict in Europe might come to mean to mankind, has brought the whole problem into focus. He has presented an opportunity to all of sitting round a friendly table, where every grievance can be discussed frankly, and the readiness of each country, whether in Europe or outside it, to make its contributions to peace and understanding, can be tested. In offering to join in the discussion of the disarmament and economic conditions which lie at the root of so much of the world's unrest, the President has made a vital contribution in advance.

"Mr. Roosevelt

"Mr. Roosevelt offers a peace conference before a war instead of after it. No country can lightly reject that opportunity of saving civilization and saving itself.

"Canada welcomes the timely action of her good neighbor, and fervently hopes that it may meet with the response which the gravity of the situation demands.

CHILE

COLOMBIA

Mr. Braden, American Ambassador to Colombia, telegraphed Saturday evening that he had just called on President Santos who had heartily endorsed the President's initiative, informing Mr. Braden that he would personally send a cable to President Roosevelt which would be made public in Colombia.

COSTA RICA

The American Minister to Costa Rica, Mr. Hornibrook, telegraphed to the Department on April 15 that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica had informed him "that in his opinion the move is inspired by the highest sentiments of humanity; the Minister hoped the President's efforts would be crowned with success and thus give the assurance of peace for at least ten years". The Minister for Foreign Affairs added that he "personally received the move with the greatest of satisfaction in view of the critical situation in Europe".

CUBA

CUBA

The following message from President Laredo Bru of Cuba was handed to Ambassador Wright in Habana on April 15:

"I have read the very eloquent message which President Roosevelt has sent in this grave hour for humanity to the Governments of Italy and Germany which embodies a generous effort to maintain peace among friendly nations.

"The document merits the most sincere admiration of all Cubans and I hasten to record my own admiration in the name of the Government I represent.

"The Cuban people bound by historic ties to the great American nation feels itself identified with the noble attitude of the illustrious statesman and I make public declaration of solidarity with such a noble endeavor."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The American Minister at Ciudad Trujillo telegraphed on Saturday evening that he had received a note from the Dominican Government expressing its complete concurrence with President Roosevelt's views and with his proposal for a world conference. The Dominican Government pledges anew its solidarity in international affairs and desires to congratulate President Roosevelt for this new proof "of his unswerving devotion to the highest ideal of our times, peace founded on right and justice."

ECUADOR

Mr. Long, the American Minister at Quito, telegraphed Saturday evening that he had just seen

seen the President of Ecuador who had authorized the Minister to state:

"I am pleased to have read your excellent note and hope that all beneficial results may attend your peace efforts made in behalf of humanity."

EL SALVADOR

Mr. Frazer, the American Minister at San Salvador, telegraphed on April 15 that the President of El Salvador has expressed his most cordial accordance with the message and has authorized the Minister for Foreign Affairs to state:

"The President and the Government of El Salvador are in entire and sincere accord with the noble and humanitarian ideas contained in the message and desire that it will obtain favorable results."

GUATEMALA

HAITI

HONDURAS

MEXICO

Ambassador Daniels telegraphed Saturday afternoon that the following statement had been made to him by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Eduardo Hay:

"It is a noble message from a great man. It stirs my emotions. I know the heart of my President and I can state for him that he is in absolute sympathy with the noble expressions of President Roosevelt".

(The

(The Minister for Foreign Affairs indicated that he would immediately inform President Cárdenas, and Ambassador Daniels stated that he would communicate with the Department again).

NICARAGUA

The American Minister to Nicaragua, Mr. Meredith Nicholson, telegraphed on Saturday afternoon as follows:

"The President of Nicaragua received the message with warm praise and enthusiasm for its motives and fully seconded the efforts of President Roosevelt. He is telegraphing direct to the White House".

PANAMA

The President of Panama made public the following statement on Saturday afternoon, April 15:

"The Government of Panama has read with the greatest interest the important message sent by the President of the United States to the heads of Governments of Germany and Italy. Such a document is of an exceptional historical importance and may be considered as the highest note uttered in favor of world peace in the midst of the chaotic international situation of the moment.

"The declaration made therein and the proposition which President Roosevelt presents are so wise and so reasonable that in our judgment only minds set against the interests of world peace or provoked by plans hostile to said peace can formulate objections against them or feel opposed or mortified by them.

"The Government of Panama expresses with satisfaction its absolute adhesion to the historic message which will mark an epoch in the annals of universal peace".

PARAGUAY

PERU

PERU

Mr. Dreyfus, American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Lima, has telegraphed that the Secretary General of the Peruvian Foreign Office informed him that "The Peruvian Government is profoundly sympathetic towards this constructive effort of the President of the United States towards world peace."

URUGUAY

The American Minister at Montevideo, Mr. Dawson, has telegraphed that the following statement was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay:

"While I shall communicate the message immediately to the President of the Republic, I may state at once that the reasoning of the message is admirable and that I do not doubt that it will be received with universal sympathy at this time of grave international crisis."

VENEZUELA

Mr. Scott, American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Caracas, reports that Dr. Gil Borges, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressed his admiration of the message in the highest terms, characterizing it as "a historic document and an eloquent plea for peace". Dr. Gil Borges added that the message would be well received on the part of all Venezuelans, and that he was having it translated

-8-

translated to send by messenger to the President of
Venezuela who was absent from Caracas.

Department of State,

Washington, April 16, 1939.

7-8

PSE Mussolini - Hitler Folly
4-20-39

NX1B

ROME, APRIL 20.--(UP)--PREMIER BENITO MUSSOLINI, RESPONDING IN A SPEECH AT THE CAMPIDOGLIO WORLD FAIR GROUNDS TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE APPEAL, SAID TODAY:

"GENTLEMEN AND COMRADES;

"THIS SOLEMN REUNION OF OURS ON THE CAPITOLINE HILL IS THE FIRST ACT OF A GREAT MOBILIZATION. THE TOO MANY PERSONS WHO, BEYOND OUR FRONTIERS, ABANDON THEMSELVES TO THE HYSTERICS OF THE PRESENT MOMENT, SHOULD NOT BE ALARMED AT THE SOUND OF THIS WORD. IT IS ONLY A CIVIL AND PACIFIC MOBILIZATION, WITHOUT WEAPONS EXCEPT THOSE HELD BY 15,000 WORKERS.

"IT IS A QUESTION OF BEGINNING A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT AND OF CO-ORDINATING ALL NATIONAL ENERGY TO THAT THE WORLD FAIR OF 1942 SHALL BE WORTHY OF ROME, OF FASCIST ITALY, AND OF THE TITLE 'OLYMPIAD OF CIVILIZATION.'

"IF WE HAD THE INTENTION OF LIGHTING THE FUSE OF AN EXPLOSIVE, IF WE WERE THINKING OF THREATS OR HAD AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS WE SHOULD NOT BE DEDICATING OURSELVES AS WE ARE DOING TO WORK ON SUCH A VAST SCALE AS THAT OF ORGANIZING A WORLD FAIR.

"NOR SHOULD WE HAVE INVITED NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN IT, NATIONS WHICH ARE ACCEPTING INVITATIONS TO IT AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY SHARE OUR IDEA REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS.

MORE L818A

NX2B

ADD MUSSOLINI TEXT ROME XXX EVENTS.

"IF DESPITE THE DARK CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON WE HAVE DARED AND CONTINUE TO WORK ASSIDUOUSLY, THIS COULD BE CONSIDERED A PROMISING SIGN--THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO ATTACK ANYONE AND WANT INSTEAD TO CONTINUE WITH OUR WORK.

"IT IS THEREFORE HIGHLY UNJUST AND IN A CERTAIN SENSE UNJUSTIFIABLE TO ATTEMPT TO PLACE THE AXIS NATIONS ON THE BENCH OF THE ACCUSED.

"NOT LESS ABSURD IS ~~THE~~ ^{ten-year} SYSTEM OF RECIPROCAL GUARANTEES, ~~and~~

THE PYRAMIDAL ERRORS OF GEOGRAPHY INCURRED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO LACK A RUDIMENTARY KNOWLEDGE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

"SO FAR AS THE IDEA OF AN ARCH-CONFERENCE IS CONCERNED, ONE IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO ITS CUSTOMARY ROLE OF DISTANT OBSERVER, OUR EXPERIENCE IN THIS CONNECTION IS A VERY BITTER MEMORY--NAMELY, THAT THE GREATER THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN A CONFERENCE THE MORE CERTAIN IT IS TO FAIL.

"WHETHER OR NOT ANY REPLY IS SENT TO THE FAMOUS MESSAGE I COULD NOT MISS THE OCCASION WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO ME AT THIS MOMENT TO REAFFIRM THAT THE POLICY OF ROME AND OF THE AXIS IS A POLICY INSPIRED BY THE CRITERIA OF PEACE AND COLLABORATION. GERMANY AND ITALY HAVE GIVEN MANY CONCRETE PROOFS OF THIS.

MORE L822A

NX3B

ADD MUSSOLINI TEXT ROME XXX THIS.

"IT IS THEREFORE TIME TO SILENCE DISSEMINATORS OF PANIC, FORECASTERS OF DISASTER AND THOSE WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL FATALISTS AND WHO OFTEN COVER WITH A LARGE FLAG THEIR FEAR AND THEIR INSANE HATRED IN ORDER TO DEFEND MORE OR LESS UNCONFESSABLE INTERESTS. WE, ANYWAY, WILL NOT OURSELVES BE IMPRESSED BY SUCH A CAMPAIGN.

"WE, ANYWAY, WILL NOT LET OURSELVES BE OPPRESSED BY PRESS CAMPAIGNS, CONVIVIAL GOSSIP, OR MESSIAH-LIKE MESSAGES BECAUSE WE FEEL WE HAVE A TRANQUIL CONSCIENCE AND ENOUGH MEN AND MEANS TO DEFEND OUR PEACE, ALSO THAT OF OTHERS.

"THE WORLD EXPOSITION IN ROME IS MEANT TO BE A CONSECRATION OF THE EFFORT WHICH ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE ARE MAKING FOR PROGRESS AND NOT ONLY MATERIALLY SPEAKING. EVERY ITALIAN MUST FROM TODAY FEEL HIMSELF PERSONALLY PLEDGED. THE ITALIAN SECTION OF THE 1942 EXPOSITION IS DESIGNED TO REMAIN FOR CENTURIES TO COME WITH CONSTRUCTIONS WHICH HAVE THE PROPORTIONS OF ST. PETER'S COLISEUM.

"YOU WHO TODAY SHALL VISIT THE EXHIBITION AREA, WILL ALREADY BE ABLE TO HAVE AN IDEA OF THE GREATNESS ALREADY BEGUN, OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE ENTHUSIASM OF THE WORKERS WHO WILL FINISH THEIR WORK BEFORE THREE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED. I AM SURE ALL OF YOU WILL GET AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION.

"THE WHOLE FAIR WILL BE DOMINATED BY A GIGANTIC ROMAN ARCH. WE PREFER TO SEE IN IT, A SYMBOL OF HUMAN DETERMINATION STRAINED IN THE EFFORT OF ACHIEVING PEACE ON A LASTING AND TRULY INDESTRUCTABLE FOUNDATION OF JUSTICE."

END TEXT

L827A

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

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R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NX Newyork NY Apl 28 1145A

Fred Storm

United Press
Poughkeepsie NY

Here are some high spots Hitler speech;

Berlin, 28 Adolph Hitler rejected Pres Roosevelt's speech Message today, Caustically and point by point.

He denounced German treaties with great Britain and Poland. He demanded the return of Danzig and a German path across the Polish corridor into east prussia.

He offered direct negotiations with any power. In a strongly worded speech to the German Reichstag that was packed with defiant threats declarations of peace Hitler characterized President Roosevelt's message to the dictators as a breach of good manners. He chided the President for not solving his own domestic problems.

All Germany and a large part of the world listened as Hitler spoke. Every form of activity in Germany was suspended and representatives of the Nazi labor front were detailed to supervise mass listening in front of loud speakers.

Hitler laid down his position emphatically.

He considers the polish German treaty of friendship and non aggression abrogated by the military guarantees of Britain to Poland.

He considers the British attitude has nullified the naval treaty under which the German navy was

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Fred Storm

NX Sheet 2

limited to 35 percent of the British.

Danzig is German and never will be Polish. It must be returned.

Germany must have a life line into East Prussia, cut off from the Reich by the Polish corridor. It would be a German controlled highway, which Germany would not regard as of a military nature.

Germany threatens no nation. All the 31 nations mentioned by President Roosevelt as menaced replied "NO" when Hitler asked them if they felt in danger.

President Roosevelt's proposal for a general peace and disarmament conference is futile. Germany is fed up with round table conferences and will enter no more such meetings except with an armed nation behind her.

However, Germany is willing to negotiate with other nations. He is willing to discuss new agreements replacing those with Britain and Poland.

Germany furthermore is willing to discuss security with any of the 31 nations mentioned by Mr. Roosevelt, if they come direct to Germany with appropriate proposals.

Hitler made concrete proposals to Poland. Danzig must return as a free state within the Reich and Germany must have a route through the corridor and a railway line at her disposal, having the same extra territorial status for Germany as the

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Fred Stom Sheet 3

corridor has for Poland.

In return, Germany is prepared to recognize all Polish economic rights in Danzig: insure Poland a free harbor in Danzig; accept the present boundaries between Germany and Poland as a final ; conclude a 25 year non aggression pact with Poland .

Hitler accompanied his offer with what might be regarded as an implied warning. He said;

"Like czechoslovakia, Poland now stands under the pressure of international war mongers".

In taunting President Roosevelt about his domestic difficulties Hitler said:

" I have led Germany out of Chaos and have increased production I have done all this without bloodshed, Mr President. You and I Mr President, came to power at the same time and you had resources at your disposal, Mr President, which excelled ours a hundred times. I am sure that you have found it so easy to solve all your problems that now you turn to the world at large.

"I work on a smaller scale. I have to confine myself to the destinies of the nation of which I am the head".

Hitler declared Germany's peaceful intentions, proclaiming that she threatens no nation. President Roosevelt's questions to Germany, he said, constituted an unfounded insinuation.

He solemnly declared germany has no aggressive intentions against the United States.

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Fred Storm United Press. Sheet 4

He characterized the British ~~gar~~^antee to Poland as an unfriendly gesture. All Germany has asked of Britain, he said, is the return of her colonies.

Hitler reaffirmed the solidity of the Berlin-Rome axis, declaring that the bonds between Germany and Italy cannot be served, and that the two nations may enter into even closer cooperation with Japan. He ~~re~~^aaled that Germany is negotiating with Lithuania for greater economic influence in that country.

In touching briefly on the war in Spain he said Germany and Italy had sought no material advantage and he hoped soon to welcome the German troops home from there.

L C W

1220P

BERLIN.--ADOLF HITLER TODAY CONVOKED A MEETING OF THE NAZI REICHSTAG FOR APRIL 28 TO MAKE HIS ANSWER TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S APPEAL FOR PEACE.

4/17--R835A

LITTLE ROCK.--AT LEAST 33 PERSONS WERE KILLED IN THE VIOLENT TORNADIC STORM WHICH SWEEP ACROSS TEX, THST CORNER OF LOUISIANA, AND ARKANSAS YESTERDAY. UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS IN THE STRICKEN AREAS ESTIMATED THE INJURED TO NUMBER 100 AND REPORTED SEVERE DAMAGE.

THE TERRIFIC WIND FIRST STRUCK IN SOUTHERN TEXAS SATURDAY NIGHT AND LAST NIGHT BLEW ITSELF OUT IN NORTHERN ARKANSAS NEAR THE MISSOURI LINE. ITS WORST TOLL WAS TAKEN IN SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS AND NORTHWEST LOUISIANA. IT STRUCK A COUNTRY CHURCH AT CENTER POINT, ARK., NINE MILES FROM DERMOTT, AND KILLED THE PASTOR AND AT LEAST 12 OF HIS FLOCK. THAT NUMBER OF BODIES HAD BEEN FOUND AND IDENTIFIED AND STILL OTHER VICTIMS WERE EXPECTED TO BE DISCOVERED TODAY.

A SHORT TIME BEFORE IT STRUCK THE CHURCH ITS PATH HAD CUT THROUGH HAYNESVILLE, LA., KILLING SEVEN PERSONS.

4/17--R837A

ADD REICHSTAG, BERLIN

A COMMUNIQUE OF THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED:

"THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT REQUESTED THE FUERHER TO TAKE A STAND REGARDING CERTAIN MATTERS. THE FUERHER CONSIDERS THIS AFFAIR SO IMPORTANT THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO MAKE KNOWN HIS ANSWER TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE BEFORE THE REICHSTAG.

"FOR THAT PURPOSE HE HAS CALLED THE REICHSTAG FOR APRIL 28 TO HEAR THIS STATEMENT."

WELL INFORMED QUARTERS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT HITLER WOULD MAKE THE SPEECH THE OCCASION FOR A BROAD OUTLINE OF THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN SITUATION FROM THE NAZI VIEWPOINT.

AS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REICHSTAG MEETING WAS MADE, HITLER WAS VISITING HIS NATIVE AUSTRIA.

HE WAS EXPECTED TO MEET THERE TOMORROW HIS RIGHT HAND MAN, FIELD MARSHAL HERMANN GOERING.

4/17--R840A

ROME.--ITALY AND GERMANY HAVE DRAFTED JOINT PLANS FOR AN ANGRY REJECTION OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE PLAN; IT WAS SAID AUTHORITATIVELY TODAY. THE NEWSPAPER MESSAGERO URGED THAT THE MESSAGE "SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ACT OF WAR."

PREMIER MUSSOLINI, COUNT GALEAZZO CIANO, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND FIELD MARSHAL HERMANN GOERING, GERMAN NAZI NO. 2, HAD SPENT ALMOST AN ENTIRE DAY IN CONFERENCE OVER THE PRESIDENT'S NOTE TO THE TOTALITARIAN LEADERS. ADOLF HITLER HAD TWICE BEEN IN CONSULTATION BY TELEPHONE.

THE RESULT WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THAT MUSSOLINI AND GOERING DECIDED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL MUST BE REJECTED IN UNMISTAKABLE TERMS.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT HITLER SUGGESTED IGNORING THE NOTE BUT THAT MUSSOLINI PERSUADED HIM THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO REPLY IF MERELY AS A MATTER OF DIPLOMATIC ROUTINE.

AS THE RESULT, MUSSOLINI AND HITLER WERE EXPECTED TO SEND SEPARATE BUT SIMILAR REPLIES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, REJECTING THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL AND QUESTIONING, AT LEAST TACITLY, ITS JUSTIFICATION.

FOR THE PRESENT, THE ANGER WHICH THE NEWSPAPERS--IN A COUNTRY WHERE NEWSPAPERS ARE CLOSELY UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL--SHOWED THE FASCIST TEMPER.

4/17--R843A

AD MUSSOLINI, ROME (TIMED 843A)
MUSSOLINI'S OWN NEWSPAPER, POPOLO D'ITALIA OF MILAN, SAID:
"A SIMPLE READING OF THE DOCUMENT REVEALS ITS IMMEASURABLE
SUPERFICIALITY AND COARSE INCOHERENCY, ITS TYPICAL DEMAGOGIC
PRETENTIOUS MENTALITY.

THE POPOLO DI ROMA OF ROME CALLED THE MESSAGE "A NEW MANIFESTATION
OF LUST FOR PUBLICITY, SHOWING FRIGHTFUL IGNORANCE, GROTESQUE PRESEUMP-
TION AND RIDICULOUS ARROGANCE--AN UNHEARD OF DOCUMENT."

BUT THE MESSAGERO, IN AN EDITORIAL SIMILARLY REGARDED AS
INSPIRED, CHARGED:

"THE MESSAGE CONSTITUTED PART OF A GENERAL ATTACK PROMOTED BY
THE DEMOCRACIES AGAINST THE TOTALITARIAN NATIONS AND SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED AS AN ACT OF WAR."

AS IN BERLIN, THE MESSAGE WAS LIKELY TO EMBARRASS TOTALITARIAN
DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES. FOREIGN MINISTER ALEXANDER CINCAR-
MARKOVITCH OF JUGOSLAVIA IS DUE HERE NEXT WEEK FOR NEGOTIATIONS
WHICH WERE EXPECTED TO START WITH AN ITALIAN OFFER TO GUARANTEE THE
SECURITY OF JUGOSLAVIA'S FRONTIER WITH GERMANY AS WELL AS THAT WITH
ITALY.

MUSSOLINI'S NEWSPAPER, FOR WHICH HE OFTEN WRITES EDITORIALS
HIMSELF, ACCUSED THE PRESIDENT OF BEING IGNORANT OF HISTORY AND OF
VIOLATING THE CUSTOM OF DIPLOMATIC SECRECY, BECAUSE HIS MESSAGE
WAS PUBLISHED A LITTLE AFTER IT HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN ROME AND BERLIN.
IT SAID, INCIDENTALLY, THAT "UP TO THIS MOMENT" IT WAS NOT KNOWN
WHAT THE ITALIAN ANSWER WOULD BE BUT IT CALLED ON ITALIANS TO REJECT
THE NOTE AND SAID THAT PRESUMABLY ITALY'S ANSWER WOULD CONFORM TO
THAT OF GERMANY.

"THE GREATEST IGNORANCE OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY EMERGES FROM
THE DOCUMENT," SAID THE POPOLO D'ITALIA. "MR. ROOSEVELT REGRETS THE
LOSS OF INDEPENDENCE OF THREE NATIONS OF EUROPE (AUSTRIA, CZECHOSLO-
VAKIA AND ALBANIA) BUT DOES NOT TAKE THE TROUBLE TO STUDY THE
CAUSES. ITALIANS AND THE FASCIST COUNCIL, IN REACTING WITH ALL
THEIR FORCE AGAINST THE MESSAGE, ARE SURE THEY ARE NOT REJECTING
A NOBLE AND SERIOUS ATTEMPT AT PEACE BUT ARE OPPOSING A MANEUVER
WHICH TENDS TO HINDER THE WORK OF MEN WHO REALLY WANT PEACE AND
ARE CREATING IT STONE BY STONE.

THE MESSAGERO SAID ITALY'S ANSWER TO THE NOTE WOULD BE THE
NECESSARY ONE" AND WOULD BE IN FULL ACCORD WITH BERLIN'S ANSWER.

ANALYZING THE ALLEGED MOTIVES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,
MESSAGERO SAID:

"IT HAS FOUR AIMS: 1) A THIRD TERM OF OFFICE, DESPITE TRADITION;
2) TO INCREASE WAR ALARMS WITH THE INTENTION OF CONTINUING TO DEVELOP
A COLOSSAL REARMAMENT PROGRAM; 3) TO WIN OVER OPPOSITION, WHICH HAS
BECOME MORE ACTIVE REGARDING THE NEUTRALITY ACT AND PLANS TO PERMIT
AMERICA TO FURNISH ARMS AND MUNITIONS IN CASE OF WAR TO THOSE
BELLIGERENTS WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE FINAL DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT,
WOULD BE 'ATTACKED;' 4) TO JUSTIFY PURSUIT OF A POLICY ON A
PROLETARIAN BASIS WHICH WOULD TEND TO ELIMINATE UNEMPLOYMENT AND
GIVE EMPLOYMENT TO THE 12,000,000 UNEMPLOYED ON THE MARKET.

ADD STATEMENT, LONDON (TIMED 2:33P)

THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT, ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE, FOLLOWS:

"THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD HALIFAX WERE INFORMED OF THE TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SHORTLY BEFORE ITS PUBLICATION.

"BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, WELCOME THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION AND HAVE AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT LEARNED WITH CORDIAL APPROVAL OF THE MESSAGE WHICH WAS COMMUNICATED LAST NIGHT TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE REICH AND THE HEAD OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND WHICH HAS NOW BEEN ISSUED TO THE PRESS.

"HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ENTIRELY ENDORSE THE PRESIDENT'S ESTIMATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND BELIEVE THE STATESMANLIKE INITIATIVE WHICH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAS BEEN INSPIRED TO TAKE OFFERS A REAL OPPORTUNITY OF AVERTING THE CATASTROPHIC WHICH HANGS OVER EUROPE AND WHICH THEY ARE CONVINCED IS FEARED IN EVERY COUNTRY.

"REPLIES FROM GERMANY AND ITALY NOW MUST BE AWAITED. HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, FOR THEIR PART, DESIRE TO EXPRESS THEIR FIRM HOPE THAT THOSE REPLIES WILL OPEN THE WAY TO THE FURTHER STEP OF WHICH THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS."

4/15 ON313P

ADD KELLY

KELLY DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN HIS OWN DECISION TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION AS MAYOR OF CHICAGO AND THE PRESIDENT. KELLY LAST WEEK WAS RE-ELECTED TO ANOTHER TERM OF OFFICE.

"IN JUNE," SAID KELLY, "I HAD NO INTENTION OF RUNNING BUT WHEN SOME PEOPLE SAY YOU OUGHT TO GET OUT OF OFFICE IT IS ONLY HUMAN NATURE THAT YOU GO OUT AND SHOW THEM THAT YOU CAN STAY IN."

HE JERKED HIS THUMB IN THE DIRECTION OF THE INNER PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE AND SAID:

"OF COURSE, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT THAT MAY BE WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE."

KELLY SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED THE CHICAGO BUSINESS SITUATION WITH MR. ROOSEVELT AND EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT "WE WERE IN A MENTAL DEPRESSION MORE THAN IN AN ECONOMIC ONE."

4/15 ON315P

PSF Italy: Mussolini
Hiller Felder 4-15-39

Presidents
Files

ADD PEACE PLEA COMMENT

SENATOR GREEN: IN GENERAL IT SEEMS AN ADMIRABLE AND TIMELY MOVE TO HELP PRESERVE THE PEACE OF THE WORLD, IN WHICH WE ARE KEENLY INTERESTED.

SENATOR WHITE: THE PROPOSAL IS TOO IMPORTANT TO COMMENT ON WITHOUT STUDYING CAREFULLY.

SENATOR ELLENDER: I HAVE NO DOUBT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SINCERITY IN ATTEMPTING TO WARD OFF A WAR. BUT THIS CONSTANT MEDDLING IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, I AM AFRAID, MIGHT LEAD US INTO WAR IF HIS MOVE IS NOT EFFECTIVE.

SENATOR PEPPER: THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE A VERY TIMELY SUGGESTION. WHAT HE PROPOSES NARROWS DOWN TO A REQUEST THAT THE NATIONS OBSERVE THE KELLOGG PEACE PACT TO WHICH THEY ARE SIGNATORIES. HE IS MERELY TRYING TO OUTLAW WAR AS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY.

SENATOR FRAZIER: IT SOUNDS VERY GOOD, BUT IT MAY BE LIKE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS THAT DON'T REALLY DO ANY GOOD WHEN NATIONS WANT TO GO TO WAR."

4/15 ON157P

ADD REPLY, ROME

- THE SAME QUARTERS REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST WHAT THEY TERMED THE "ASSUMPTION THAT ITALY AND GERMANY ARE THE ONES TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PEACE OF EUROPE."

HIGH FASCIST QUARTERS CLAIMED THAT ITALY WAS READY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IF THEY WOULD ENVISAGE PROBLEMS WHICH ITALY IS MOST ANXIOUS TO SETTLE AND IF THE CONFEREES WOULD NOT PREVENT A FULL DISCUSSION OF THESE PROBLEMS AS A PART OF THE SETTLEMENT.

FOREIGN OFFICE CIRCLES WERE SURPRISED AT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE. THE FIRST REACTION TO IT APPEARED TO BE THAT IT REPRESENTED A MOVE ON THE PART OF GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE TO WORK AGAINST THE TOTALITARIAN STATES THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE UNITED STATES.

4/15 ON159P

ADD FLEET

IT WAS REPORTED THE SUDDEN FLEET ORDER WAS A RESULT, AT LEAST IN PART, OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION MIGHT TAKE A TURN WHICH WOULD INVOLVE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FAR EAST. ONE SOURCE SAID THAT THE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SUGGESTED A POSSIBILITY THAT ANY NEW MILITARY DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE MIGHT BE COUPLED WITH ACTION IN THE AREA OF THE EAST INDIES, WHERE BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS CONTROL GREAT SOURCES OF RUBBER AND OIL. ANY DEVELOPMENTS THERE MIGHT SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE PHILIPPINES.

4/15 ON210P

LONDON--THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY WARMLY ENDORSING PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE TO THE DICTATORS, SAYING THAT IT "OFFERS A REAL OPPORTUNITY OF AVERTING THE CATASTROPHE WHICH HANGS OVER EUROPE."

THE STATEMENT, APPROVED BY PRIME MINISTER CHAMBERLAIN AND FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD HALIFAX, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GERMANY AND ITALY WOULD ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS.

4/15 ON233P

NORFOLK--THE FLEET WENT INTO HIGH SPEED REFUELING OPERATIONS TODAY WITH THE ORDER TO SAIL FOR THE PACIFIC COAST. LEAVES OF THOUSANDS OF SAILORS AND OFFICERS WERE CANCELLED AND THEY WERE ORDERED ABOARD THEIR SHIPS AT ONCE.

HIGH NAVY OFFICERS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE SAILING ORDER BUT INDICATED FIRST UNITS WOULD BE READY TO MOVE WITHIN 24 TO 36 HOURS.

THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM ANY SOURCE HERE AS TO THE REASON FOR THE SAILING ORDER.

ACTING ADMIRAL E. C. KLABFUS, WHO TOOK COMMAND OF THE FLEET WHEN ADMIRAL CLAUDE BLOCH WAS CALLED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS AT THE NAVY DEPARTMENT, SAID "WE WILL CARRY OUT THE SAILING ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

NEWSPAPERS AND NAVAL OFFICES IN NORFOLK WERE SWAMPED WITH CALLS FROM WIVES AND SWEETHEARTS WANTING TO KNOW WHY THE FLEET WAS SAILING AND WHEN THE SHIPS WOULD LEAVE.

THE SAILING ORDER INTERRUPTED AN OFFICIAL WELCOME BY THE STATE OF VIRGINIA TO THE FLEET. GOV. JAMES M. PRICE AND OTHER STATE, CITY AND CIVIC OFFICIALS WERE ABOARD THE FLAGSHIP CALIFORNIA FOR THE CEREMONY WHEN THE ORDER CAME.

4/15 ON143P

ADD REPLY, ROME

MUSSOLINI AND COL. GEN. HERMANN WILHELM GOERING, WHO IS VISITING ROME, WERE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FULLY BEFORE GOERING LEAVES ON MONDAY, AND WORK OUT SIMILAR ANSWERS, GOERING TO MAKE TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HITLER TO CO-ORDINATE THE DECISIONS.

ASKED WHAT ATTITUDE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING ABOUT THE MESSAGE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRESS MINISTRY SAID:

"FOR THE PRESENT, WE CONSIDER COUNT CIANO'S ADDRESS THIS AFTERNOON A SUFFICIENT REPLY."

IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THE MESSAGE BROUGHT OUTSPOKEN RESENTMENT. IT WAS STATED THAT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT USED AN UNDIPLOMATIC TONE AND TALKED TO HITLER AND MUSSOLINI AS THOUGH HE WERE SCOLDING TWO BAD BOYS.

4/15 ON145P

ADD PEACE PLEA COMMENT

SENATOR M. M. LOGAN: I HOPE SOMETHING WILL COME OF IT. IT'S A GOOD MOVE AND CAN'T DO ANY HARM IF THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.

SENATOR CONNALLY: IF THE PRESIDENT CAN SUCCEED IN PREVENTING A EUROPEAN WAR, HE WILL HAVE RENDERED THE WORLD A GREAT SERVICE. THE UNITED STATES WANTS NO WAR EITHER HERE OR IN EUROPE.

SENATOR GEORGE: IF WE LET EUROPE ALONE, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE A WAR. IF, THROUGH FRIENDLY INTERVENTION, WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD TRADE AND COMMERCE, THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE WORLD WILL BE INCREASED THEREBY.

4/15 ON149P

AD PEACE PLEA COMMENT

REP. SOL BLOOM: IT IS A VERY GOOD THING AND I HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE MAY BE BROUGHT ABOUT BUT WHO IS GOING TO THE GUARANTEE THE GUARANTORS?

SENATOR TOWNSEND: I THINK THE MOVE WILL BE HELPFUL IF HITLER AND MUSSOLINI WILL COOPERATE, PROVIDING THIS COUNTRY IS NOT INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

SENATOR BORAH: I WOULD NOT MYSELF HAVE INITIATED ANY SUCH PROPOSAL, FOR REASONS WHICH SEEM FUNDAMENTAL TO ME. BUT NOW THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE, I HOPE GOOD WILL COME OF IT.

SENATOR MCCARRAN: IF I UNDERSTAND THIS, IT VIOLATES THE PRECEDENT SET BY THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NATION, GEORGE WASHINGTON, THAT WE SHOULD STAY OUT OF FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS. ONLY YESTERDAY, IF YOU WILL RECALL, THE PRESIDENT ATTEMPTED TO EMULATE WASHINGTON IN HIS SPEECH AT MOUNT VERNON. AND THEN WE GET THIS MOVE TODAY.

SENATOR NYE: IT WAS A GRAND WAY TO APPROACH THIS IMMEDIATE SITUATION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT COMING AT THIS TIME IT SHOULD HAVE SOME CHANCE OF SUCCESS, AND I SHOULD CERTAINLY HOPE IT SUCCEEDS. ITS SPLENDID TO SEE SUCH AN EFFORT MADE AT THIS TIME.

SENATOR SCHWELLENBACH: I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, AND I DON'T FEEL THAT AN OFFER TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY IS THE KIND OF INVOLVEMENT ANYBODY CAN CRITICIZE. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOVE SHOULD HAVE BEEN STARTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MUNICH CONFERENCE. IT IS A QUESTION WHETHER LATER PROMISES MADE BY MUSSOLINI AND HITLER TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE WILL NOT MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THIS MOVE TO SUCCEED.

4/15 ON154P

"PARK YOUR GUNS OUTSIDE WAS THE "GOOD OLD AMERICAN EXPRESSION" WHICH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SAID TODAY HE WANTED TO USE IN HIS PEACE PLEA TO HITLER AND MUSSOLINI.

HE EXPLAINED TO NEWSMEN THAT HE FEARED THEY MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND THIS AMERICAN SLANG, AND SO, IN DIPLOMATIC TERMS, HE HAD TO WORD IT THIS WAR:

"IT IS CUSTOMARY AND NECESSARY THAT THEY LEAVE THEIR ARMS OUTSIDE THE ROOM WHERE THEY CONFER."

"BUT IT MEANS THE SAME THING," HE SAID.

4/15 ON123P

NBC ANNOUNCES THAT AT 1:30 P.M. CORRESPONDENTS IN ROME, PARIS AND LONDON WILL DISCUSS TODAY'S EVENTS IN A BROADCAST WITH H. R. BAUKAGE IN WASHINGTON.

4/15 ON132P

ROME--THE UNITED PRESS WAS INFORMED AUTHORITATIVELY TODAY THAT PREMIER BENITO MUSSOLINI WILL CONFER WITH FUENRER ADOLF HITLER BEFORE REPLYING TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE MESSAGE, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS ADDRESSED TO BOTH DICTATORS.

4/15 ON133P

ADD PEACE PLEA COMMENT

MAJORITY LEADER BARKLEY: IT IS A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND LAUDABLE PROPOSAL. IT CERTAINLY EFFECTIVELY NULLIFIES THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PRETENDING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS A DESIRE TO DRAG THIS COUNTRY INTO WAR.

SENATOR ELBERT D. THOMAS: THE OFFER PUTS RIGHT BACK IN THE LAPS OF MUSSOLINI AND HITLER THE CHANCE TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES IN AN ORDERLY WAY. WE ALL HOPE IT WILL WORK.

4/15 ON134P

ADD ACCEPTANCE, PARIS

"THE SAME IDEA WAS ONLY RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY M. DALADIER IN HIS RADIO SPEECH AND IN THE FRENCH-BRITISH COMMON DECLARATIONS OF APRIL 13, WHICH WERE COMMUNICATED BY OUR AMBASSADORS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS," THE COMMUNIQUE CONTINUED.

"THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNICATION WAS TRANSMITTED THIS AFTER-NOON BY AMBASSADOR BULLIT TO WASHINGTON.

THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS STUDIED THE MESSAGE WHEN SIR ERIC PHIPPS, BRITISH AMBASSADOR, CONVEYED A COMMUNICATION FROM PRIME MINISTER CHAMBERLAIN AND FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD HALIFAX TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

4/15 ON1254P

ADD PEACE PLEA COMMENT

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER MARTIN: I QUESTION IF THE PROPOSAL IS MORE THAN A GESTURE. I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN PEACE, AND FOR THAT REASON MEN AND WOMEN IN PUBLIC POSITIONS MUST BE DISCREET IN THEIR UTTERANCES.

4/15 ON115P

LONDON--THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CO., IS BROADCASTING PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE PLEA IN GERMAN AND ITALIAN TONIGHT. THUS THE APPEAL WILL REACH THE GERMAN AND ITALIAN PEOPLE EVEN IF THE PAPERS DO NOT PUBLISH IT.

ITALIAN AND GERMAN BROADCASTS WERE STARTED AFTER THE MUNICH CONFERENCE, DESIGNED TO REACH THE PEOPLE DESPITE PRESS CENSORSHIP.

4/15 ON1245P

File

NEW YORK--GERMAN STEAMERS CARRYING RECORD CARGOES RACED FOR THE UNITED STATES TODAY TO ARRIVE BEFORE NEXT SATURDAY WHEN THE NEW 25 PER CENT IMPORT TAX ON ALL GERMAN GOODS GOES INTO EFFECT.

THE BREMEN, BATTERED BY THREE STORMS ENROUTE, ARRIVED YESTERDAY WITH 1,300 TONS OF CARGO, THE MOST SHE EVER CARRIED.

THE HANSA OF THE HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE WAS DUE TOMORROW WITH 5,800 TONS, HER RECORD LOAD. THE WESTERLAND IS DUE FROM HAMBURG ON APRIL 18; THE GERMAN FREIGHTER WASGENWALD IS DUE AT PHILADELPHIA FROM BREMEN APRIL 18, AND THE FREIGHTER WESER IS DUE IN NEW YORK FROM BREMEN APRIL 19. ALL CARRY FULL CARGOES.

THE 25 PER CENT IMPORT TAX WAS IMPOSED AFTER GERMANY'S SEIZURE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BECAUSE OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT EXPORT SUBSIDIES CONSIDERED TO CONSTITUTE "DUMPING."

4/15 ON1249P

ADD ROOSEVELT COMMENT, BERLIN (TIMED 12:34 P)

OFFICIALS WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AT RECEIPT OF THE MESSAGE AND REFUSED ANY COMMENT UNTIL THEY HAD TIME TO SCRUTINIZE IT CLOSELY. WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL QUARTERS, HOWEVER, BELIEVED THE NAZI GOVERNMENT'S REACTION MOST LIKELY WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

1. IT IS AN IMPERTINENCE ON PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PART TO REQUEST SUCH GUARANTEES, SEEING THAT NEITHER GERMANY NOR ITALY, ACCORDING TO GERMAN CLAIMS, HAS ANY AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS AGAINST ANY OTHER POWERS.
2. IT IS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WHO FOR MONTHS HAS FATHERED THE ANTI-AXIS ENCIRCLEMENT CAMPAIGN.
3. THAT THE MESSAGE, COMING ON TOP OF HIS PAN-AMERICAN ADDRESS YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS DENOUNCED HERE AS FINAL PROOF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO DRIVE THE WORLD INTO WAR, CANNOT BE REGARDED SERIOUSLY BY THE AXIS GOVERNMENTS.

4/15 ON

ADD PEACE PLEA COMMENT

REP. EWING THOMASON: I FAVOR IT. IN VIEW OF THE FEELING THROUGH-
OUT THE WORLD I DOUBT WHETHER A TRADE AND DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE WOULD
ACCOMPLISH MUCH RIGHT NOW. BUT I THINK THAT ANYTHING THAT WOULD PRO-
MOTE PEACE IS WORTH TRYING.

REP. ANDREW J. MAY: I THINK IT IS A VERY WISE PROCEDURE SO LONG AS
HE KEEPS THIS COUNTRY ALOOF FROM ANY OF THE AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN
EUROPEAN NATIONS. I REGARD IT AS A VERY WISE MOVE, AND IT WAS A VERY
OPPORTUNE TIME TO MAKE IT.

REP. A. L. FORD: I THINK THAT WOULD BE A FINE THING ON THE PART OF
THIS COUNTRY.

SPEAKER BANKHEAD: I AM GLAD TO HEAR HE HAS DONE IT. THIS IS A
GESTURE OF FRIENDLINESS AND DEMONSTRATES A DESIRE FOR PEACE, GOODWILL
AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD. IT SHOULD MEET THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONS
OF THE WORLD. I HOPE AND PRAY THE RESPONSE WILL BE FAVORABLE.

REP. JAMES SHANLEY: I AM HOPING THIS MAY NOT BE TOO LATE. I INTRO-
DUCED A RESOLUTION FEB. 8 FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE. I WONDER WHETHER
THE TOTALITARIAN STATES WILL ACCEPT NOW. ANY MOVE THAT BRINGS THEM
TOGETHER IS EXCELLENT. THE VERSAILLES TREATY VIOLATED WILSON'S 14
POINTS, AND UNQUESTIONABLY BURNED DEEPLY INTO THE MINDS OF TOTALITARIAN
NATIONS.

4/15 ON1237P

REP. ROY O. WOODRUFF CHARGED THIS NOON IN A NATIONWIDE BROADCAST
THAT THE ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION HAS "ECONOMICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY
INCREASED THE CHANCES OF AMERICA BEING DRAWN INTO WAR."

"A SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPT IS UNDER WAY," HE SAID, "TO PERSUADE US THAT
WE CANNOT POSSIBLY ESCAPE PARTICIPATION IN ANY WAR THAT MAY BREAK OUT
ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. WE CAN REMAIN ALOOF IF WE WISH.

"WE WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY EUROPEAN CONFLICT ONLY IF AND WHEN
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN BE SUFFICIENTLY SWAYED BY MANUFACTURED
EMOTIONALISM TO ENABLE THOSE WHO WANT TO TAKE US INTO FOREIGN WARS
TO ACHIEVE THEIR DESIGNS.

"OUR EARS HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY ASSAILED FOR MONTHS BY ADMINISTRA-
TION SPOKESMEN UTTERING BLASTS OF CRITICISM AGAINST OTHER NATIONS WHICH
AROUSE THE ANGER OF THEIR LEADERS AND THEIR PEOPLES AND PREJUDICE THE
MINDS OF OUR OWN."

4/15 ON1249P

COMMENT ON PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE PLEA

SENATOR HIRAM W. JOHNSON: "IT'S GOOD PUBLICITY AND THAT'S ALL."

SENATOR BARBOUR: "NO ONE CAN DO OTHERWISE THAN COMMEND THE
PRESIDENT FOR ANY EFFORT HE MAY MAKE TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE OR
DISARMAMENT CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN ADEQUATE NATIONAL DEFENSE NEEDS.
BUT I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT IT MUST AT THE SAME TIME BE MADE
ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THIS COUNTRY IS DEFINITELY DETERMINED NOT TO
AGAIN BE DRAWN INTO ANOTHER EUROPEAN CONFLICT."

4/15 ON1241P

(PICKUP ADD TIMED 1237P)

THIS OVERSIZE ITEM HAS BEEN
MICROFILMED IN SECTIONS.

FLASH

U.S. FLEET ORDERED TO RETURN TO THE PACIFIC AT ONCE.

4/15--R121 1221P

THE U.S. FLEET WAS ORDERED TODAY TO DEPART FOR THE PACIFIC COAST
AS SOON AS IT CAN BE FUELED.

4/15--R1222P

ADD FLEET

THE ORDERS TO THE FLEET CANCELLED ENGAGEMENTS FOR IT TO APPEAR IN
NEW YORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE WORLD'S FAIR AND A
SPECIAL GRAND REVIEW BEFORE SECRETARY SWANSON AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
OF NORFOLK NEXT WEEK.

4/15--R1223P

PARIS.--PREMIER DALADIER TODAY NOTIFIED THE U.S. OF FRANCE'S
UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE PLAN.

4/15--R1224P

ADD FLEET

THE FLEET WAS DIRECTED TO RETURN TO THE "NORMAL OPERATING AREAS OF
THE PACIFIC" AS SOON AS REFUELING OF VESSELS CAN BE COMPLETED.

THE FLEET HAS BEEN ON THE ATLANTIC SIDE OF THE PANAMA CANAL SINCE
JANUARY, CONDUCTING MANEUVERS IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA IN FEBRUARY AND
THEN PROCEEDING UP THE ATLANTIC TO VARIOUS BASES DURING THE LAST FEW
WEEKS. MOST OF IT NOW IS CONCENTRATED AROUND NORFOLK.

4/15--R1225P

PARIS.--FRANCE AND BRITAIN OUTLINED TO RUSSIA TODAY A GENERAL
PROPOSAL FOR A THREE-POWER MILITARY AND AIR ALLIANCE.

4/15--R1226P

ADD FLEET

IT HAD BEEN PLANNED TO KEEP THE FLEET ON THE ATLANTIC COAST UNTIL
ABOUT MAY 1 AND THEN RETURN IT TO THE PACIFIC STATIONS WHICH HAVE
BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

THE ABRUPT NEW ORDER APPLIED TO THE ENTIRE U.S. SEA FORCE, WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF THE NEWLY CREATED ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

4/15--R1227P

ADD FLEET

IT HAD BEEN PLANNED TO KEEP THE FLEET ON THE ATLANTIC COAST UNTIL ABOUT MAY 1 AND THEN RETURN IT TO THE PACIFIC STATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

THE ABRUPT NEW ORDER APPLIED TO THE ENTIRE U.S. SEA FORCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NEWLY CREATED ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

4/15--R1227P

ADD RUSSIA, PARIS

UNDER THAT ALLIANCE, PRESENT AND POTENTIAL AIR RESOURCES WOULD BE POOLED IN BEHALF OF PEACE. IT WOULD BE RUSSIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SELF-DEFENSE CHAIN OF STATUS QUO POWERS RINGING GERMANY AND ITALY TO CURB THE EXPANSIONIST DREAMS OF THE DICTATORS ON THE CONTINENT.

UNDER A PLAN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP BY FRENCH AIR EXPERTS, THE WESTERN ALLIES AND RUSSIA WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT INTO THE AIR IMMEDIATELY 10,500 FIRST LINE PLANES, COMPARED TO ITALY'S AND GERMANY'S 6,500. EACH MONTH HEREFTER THEY WOULD BUILD 1,800 PLANES COMPARED TO 900 FOR THE DICTATORS.

AMERICAN DELIVERY OF 1,700 NEW PLANES TO BRITAIN AND FRANCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WOULD GIVE PARIS, LONDON AND MOSCOW A DEFINITE ADVANTAGE BY THE END OF JULY OF 17,600 PLANES AS AGAINST 9,200 FOR BERLIN AND ROME.

4/15--R1229P

ADD FLEET

THE SPECIAL ATLANTIC FORCE COMPRISES ONLY FIVE CRUISERS, SIX SUBMARINES, ONE AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND ONE AIRCRAFT TENDER.

THE NAVY MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE SUDDEN MOVE. HOWEVER, IT APPEARED PLAIN THAT THE DECISION MUST HAVE BEEN MADE IN CONNECTION WITH WAR TENSION IN EUROPE.

4/15--R1230P N-0

ADD ACCEPTANCE, PARIS

DALADIER OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED WILLIAM C. BULLITT, U.S. AMBASSADOR, OF FRANCE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S WARNING TO THE DICTATORS AND HIS OFFER TO CALL A PEACE AND DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

4/15--R1231P

ADD FLEET

IT WAS RESUMED THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES BELIEVED IT DESIRABLE THAT THE U.S. FLEET BE CONCENTRATED IN THE PACIFIC IN EVENT OF SUDDEN DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE BULK OF GREEK BRITAIN'S SEA POWER ALREADY IS CONCENTRATED IN EUROPEAN WATERS, IN THE NORTH SEA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND WOULD BE REQUIRED THERE IN CASE OF WAR.

4/15--R1232P N-0

ADD FLEET

THE NAVY ANNOUNCEMENT:

"SECRETARY OF THE NAVY SWANSON ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT, WHEN FUELED, THE UNITED STATES FLEET WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE UNITS LISTED BELOW, WILL RETURN TO NORMAL OPERATING AREAS IN THE PACIFIC: THE ATLANTIC SQUADRON AND FIVE CRUISERS, SIX SUBMARINES, ONE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, ONE AIRCRAFT TENDER (USS LANGLEY, WITH TWO SQUADRONS OF PAROL PLANES.)"

4/15 ON1233P

BERLIN--PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PEACE PROPOSAL WAS ICILY RECEIVED IN BERLIN. WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL QUARTERS DESCRIBED IT AS COMING WITH BAD GRACE FROM A MAN WHO FOR MONTHS HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY THE OFFICIAL GERMAN PROPAGANDA MACHINE AS "WAR MONSTER NO. 1" AND "FATHER OF THE ANTI-AXIS ENCIRCLEMENT POLICY."

4/15 ON1234P

ADD ACCEPTANCE, PARIS

THE PREMIER'S OFFICE PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE WHICH SAID:

"AS SOON AS M. DALADIER RECEIVED MR. ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE HE CALLED AMBASSADOR BULLITT TO THE PREMIER'S OFFICE AND AT ONCE COMMUNICATED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S REPLY.

"THE REPLY CONSTITUTES COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL ADHESION TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PROPOSALS AND AFFIRMS FRANCE'S FIDELITY TO THE IDEAS OF LIBERTY AND HUMAN SOLIDARITY FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE, WITH INDEPENDENCE FOR ALL NATIONS."

4/15 ON1244P

PARIS.--PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, IT IS REPORTED, HAS SENT PERSONAL
MESSAGES TO ADOLF HITLER AND BENITO MUSSOLINI, URGING THEM TO ENTER
INTO LONG-TERM PLEDGES TO KEEP THE PEACE.

4/15--R1003A

ADD ROOSEVELT, PARIS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S INTERVENTION, LIKE HIS MESSAGE TO MUSSOLINI A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE MUNICH CONFERENCE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SUGGESTED THAT THE POWERS PEACEFULLY SETTLE DISPUTES AND AVOID WAR.

HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON, U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN LONDON, AND BULLITT IN PARIS WERE CHARGED BY THE PRESIDENT WITH EXPLAINING DIRECTLY TO CHAMBERLAIN AND DALADIER THAT WASHINGTON'S INTERVENTION IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE SIDES IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE IDEOLOGICAL BLOCS.

BULLITT HANDED A COPY OF THE MESSAGE TO DALADIER AND BONNET TOGETHER IN THE PREMIER'S OFFICE. AFTERWARDS BULLITT AND BONNET HELD THEIR LUNCHEON CONFERENCE. CHIEF AMONG THE DOCUMENTS SPREAD ON THE TABLE BEFORE THEM WAS AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH RUSSIA IN RECENT DAYS REGARDING AN AERIAL DEFENSE PACT.

ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE WAS THREE AND ONE-HALF PAGES LONG. IT URGED A PERIOD OF PEACE, DURING WHICH THE POWERS WOULD BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITH DEMOBILIZATION AND RETURN TO NORMAL BUDGETS.

THE MESSAGE CITED THE NAMES OF ABOUT 25 STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN INVADDED AND ASKED THE DICTATORS TO GUARANTEE THEIR INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND PROMISE NOT TO ENTER THEIR TERRITORY FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS.

4/15--R1048A

HONOLULU.--A. L. PATTERSON, REPRESENTATIVE IN CHINA OF THE UNITED AIRCRAFT CORP. AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHINA AIR MOTIVE CO., CLEARED THROUGH HERE TODAY AS A PASSENGER ON THE CALIFORNIA CLIPPER.

HE SAID HE WAS RETURNING TO THE U.S. WITH SPECIFICATIONS FOR \$15,000-, 000 WORTH OF AIRPLANES TO BE BUILT FOR CHINA. CONSTRUCTION OF BOMBING AND PURSUIT PLANES WILL BEGIN IN THE U.S. IN A FEW WEEKS, PATTERSON SAID.

"THE CHINESE AIR FORCE IS UNDERGOING A COMPLETE REORGANIZATION WITH EMPHASIS ON TRAINING IN ORDER TO PLACE THE FORCE ON A FIRST CLASS BASIS," PATTERSON SAID. "WITH THESE PLANES, THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. THERE IS AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION ABROAD THAT THE CHINESE AIR FORCE HAS BEEN DESTROYED. THE CHINESE HAVE NOT MANY BOMBERS LEFT BUT THE PURSUIT SHIPS ARE GOING STRONG.

"FOR EXAMPLE, TWO WEEKS AGO THEY SHOT DOWN 18 JAPANESE PLANES OVER LANCHOW, ALTHOUGH LITTLE NEWS OF IT GOT OUT. WITH NEWLY-ESTABLISHED CREDIT IN THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND, THE CHINESE ARE BUYING LOTS OF NEW PLANES AND EQUIPMENT."

4/15--R1050A

ADD ROOSEVELT, PARIS

IN HIS MESSAGE, THE PRESIDENT PARTICULARLY ASKED THE DICTATORS TO GUARANTEE THE INDEPENDENCE DURING THAT PERIOD OF ALL SCANDINAVIAN, BALTIC AND BALKAN STATES, ESPECIALLY POLAND, LITHUANIA, RUMANIA, GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

THE MESSAGES WERE SENT DIRECTLY TO ROME AND BERLIN, WITH COPIES TO PARIS AND LONDON.

4/15--R1058A

FLASH

FLASH

Private
WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMS ROOSEVELT PEACE PLEA TO DICTATORS.

4/15--R111A

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN A POINTED MESSAGE TODAY CALLED ON CHANCELLOR HITLER AND PREMIER MUSSOLINI TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THEY PLANNED NO FURTHER MARCH ON THE INDEPENDENT NATIONS OF EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST.

4/15--R1102A

ADD PEACE PLEA

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THEM INVITED THEM TO SIT AROUND A CONFERENCE TABLE WITH OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, TO WORK OUT A PROGRAM OF ARMS REDUCTION AND TRADE IMPROVEMENT.

4/15--R1103A

ADD PEACE PLEA

"I AM CONVINCED," THE PRESIDENT CABLED TO BOTH LEADERS, "THAT THE CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE WOULD BE GREATLY ADVANCED IF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WERE TO OBTAIN A FRANK STATEMENT RELATING TO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE POLICY OF GOVERNMENTS."

4/15--R1104A

ADD PEACE PLEA

"BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES," HE ADDED, "AS ONE OF THE NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE IMMEDIATE CONTROVERSIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN EUROPE, I TRUST THAT YOU MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT OF POLICY TO ME AS THE HEAD OF A NATION FAR REMOVED FROM EUROPE IN ORDER THAT I, ACTING ONLY WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION OF A FRIENDLY INTERMEDIARY, MAY COMMUNICATE SUCH DECLARATION TO OTHER NATIONS NOW APPREHENSIVE AS TO THE COURSE WHICH THE POLICY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE."

4/15--R1106A

ADD PEACE PLEA

THE PRESIDENT ASKED THE LEADERS:
"ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE ASSURANCE THAT YOUR ARMED FORCES WILL NOT ATTACK OR INVADE THE TERRITORY OR POSSESSIONS OF THE FOLLOWING INDEPENDENT NATIONS:

"FINLAND, ESTHONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, SWEDEN, NORWAY, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, FRANCE, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, LUXEMBURG, POLAND, HUNGARY, RUMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, RUSSIA, BULGARIA, GREECE, TURKEY, IRAQ, THE ARABIAS, SYRIA, PALESTINE, EGYPT AND IRAN.

4/15--R1111A

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Following is text of Hitler's reply:

The British Ambassador at Berlin has submitted to British Government suggestions which I felt bound to make in order

(1) To give expression once more to will of Reich Government for sincere Anglo-German understanding cooperation and friendship.

(2) To leave no room for doubt as to fact that such an understanding could not be bought at price of a renunciation of vital German interests, let alone the abandonment of demands which are based as much upon common human justice as upon national dignity and honour of our people.

The German Government have noted with satisfaction from reply of British Government and from oral explanations given by British Ambassador that British Government for their part are also prepared to improve relationship between Germany and England and to develop and extend it in sense of German suggestions.

In this connexion the British Government are similarly convinced that removal of German-Polish tension, which has become unbearable, is pre-requisite for realisation of this hope.

Since Autumn of past year and on the last occasion in March 1939, there were submitted to Polish Government proposals, both oral and written, which having regard to friendship then existing between Germany and Poland offered possibility of a solution of questions

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in dispute acceptable to both parties. British Government are aware that Polish Government saw fit in March last finally to reject these proposals. At the same time they used this rejection as a pretext or an occasion for taking military measures which have since been continuously intensified. Already in middle of last month Poland was in effect in a state of mobilisation. This was accompanied by numerous encroachments in Free City of Danzig; due to instigation of Polish authorities mass of threatening demands in nature of ultimata varying only in degree were addressed to that city. A closing of frontiers at first in the form of a measure of customs policy but extended later in a military sense affecting also traffic and communications was imposed with the object of bringing about political exhaustion and economic destruction of this German community.

To this were added barbaric acts of maltreatment which cry to Heaven and other kinds of persecution of large German National Group in Poland, which extended even to killing of many resident Germans or to their forcible removal under most cruel conditions.

This state of affairs is unbearable for a Great Power. It has now forced Germany after remaining a passive onlooker for many months in her turn to take necessary steps for safeguarding of justified German interests. And indeed German Government can assure

His/

His Majesty's Government in most solemn manner that a condition of affairs has now been reached which can no longer be accepted or observed with indifference.

The demands of German Government are in conformity with revision of Treaty of Versailles in regard to this territory which has always been recognised as being necessary: the return of Danzig and corridor to Germany and safeguarding of existence of German national groups in territories remaining to Poland.

German Government note with satisfaction that His Majesty's Government also are in principle convinced that some solution must be found for situation which has arisen.

Translation of Hitler's speech this morning (Sept. 1)
as heard over the radio)

PS F. Italy: Mussolini - Hitler Rally

1939

Hitler

Chancellor Hitler went on by saying that war was forced upon Germany with pointed guns. I have discussed many possible solutions with those statesmen. I made an offer to them not long ago. Only I myself could have made such an offer, although I know that millions of Germans disagreed with me at the time and Poland then started a struggle and started with the German minority. Over a period of four months, Hitler went on by saying, oppression and measures regarding existing treaties on the part of Poland would mean that Germany would have to act sooner or later. I have told the Polish Ambassador here that the Germany of today is no longer the Germany of old. No power on earth could tolerate such conditions in the long run. Although I was convinced that Poland did not want a peaceful solution, for two long days I have been waiting to see what Poland would do. All I received in answer was that Poland did not want to negotiate with us, but this did not even reach us directly. The German nation, the Chancellor said, would deserve to disappear -- My love of peace and my endless patience should not be mistaken for --- . I, therefore, told the British Government last night that I considered the suggestion I had made for a peaceful settlement of the Polish question as a failure. That country's mobilization was the answer to my proposal and last night again no less than 40 --

which are Poland's responsibility. I am now determined to talk the same language to Poland that Poland has been talking to us. I have given assurances to the Western powers for quite some time, and particularly I have offered to England - the terms affecting our relations must be mutual. It must come from both sides. I also want to thank Italy that she has consistently backed us up. Of course, I do not want to appeal to others for help. We shall help ourselves and respect other neutrals as long as they remain neutral.

The Chancellor then started to discuss briefly the Russo-German Pact. He said that everyone knew that different political doctrines were subscribed to. If Soviet Russia agrees to give to our country the assurances -- ~~thereby~~ that we can live together as peaceful neighbors. The fact ~~is~~ that we have concluded an agreement with Soviet Russia means an assurance of peace and that never again will we have to consume our energies in a major struggle. The tremendous change, Hitler continued, which has been brought about by the Soviet-German Pact will probably mean at the same time that the political trend in the future will be in a different direction and I am convinced that it will never be changed. At this point the Chancellor discussed the situation as it is seen by him. He said to solve existing problems that Danzig had to return to the ~~Rish~~

Reich; that the Corridor had to become German again. We will strike (?) as long as it will be necessary to bring such peaceful conditions on. We will fight until the Polish Government or any other Government will make such a settlement possible. I have no intention, Hitler said, of fighting women or children. I have, therefore, given strict orders to the German air forces that only military fortifications should be --- . ~~Hitler~~ Hitler said that since 5:45 this morning German time fire was being exchanged between Poland and Germany; that shots had come across the border. From now on, he said they would talk the same language. If any of our opponents should use poison gas against us, it will be poison gas from us. We have been obliged to spend some 90 billion marks for our national defense. Our allies are more powerful but we shall not back out. Today it will be from now on nothing but the first soldier. Just as I have fought in the last war, I shall not take off this uniform until I have achieved victory. However, if something should happen to me I want / Field Marshal Goering to become my successor. My deputy, Rudolf Hess will take his place, and if something should happen to Hess, the lieutenant which I will soon appoint will elect his successor the ~~man~~ man most worthy to succeed me.

I never knew, Hitler said, what the word capitulation ~~means~~ means. I have heard some people say that we will back down. They will be mistaken. Never again will a defeat such as 1918 occur. It will never be repeated. It is not important that we live but it is important that our nation shall live. If our nation is strong enough, we shall live in the end.

Mussolini Hitler

October 3, 1939.

Memo to the President from Cordell Hull
enclosing conf message of Oct 3, 1939 from Amb Phillips

Re-message which Hitler sent to Mussolini on Sept 1st
and because of text now becomes of special interest.
It appears that it was drafted by Mussolini himself
and all Hitler did was to sign it etc, etc.

See: ~~Italy folder--drawer 1-1939~~

Phillips Folder BW 10