

German interests, let alone the abandonment of demands which are based as much upon common human justice as upon the national dignity and honour of our people.

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

In this connection the British Government are similarly convinced that removal of the German-Polish tension which has become unbearable is a prerequisite for the realization of this hope.

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

The British Government are aware that the 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 since have been continuously intensified. Already in the middle of last month, Poland was in effect in a state of mobilization. This was accompanied by numerous encroachments in the free city of Danzig due to the instigation of Polish authorities; threatening demands in the nature of ultimata, varying only in degree, were addressed to that city.

Closing of frontiers, at first in the form of a measure of customs policy but later extended in a military sense affecting also traffic and communications, was imposed with the object of bringing about the political exhaustion and economic destruction of this German community.

To this were added barbaric actions of maltreatment which cry to heaven, and other kinds of persecution of the large German national group in Poland which extended even to killing of many resident Germans or to their forcible removal under the most cruel conditions. This state of affairs is unbearable for a great power. It now has forced Germany after remaining a passive onlooker for many months, in her turn to take the necessary steps for the safeguarding of justified German interests. And indeed the German Government can but assure the British Government in the 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 the German Government are in conformity with the revision of the Versailles treaty in regard to this territory which has always been recognized as being necessary; viz., the return of Danzig