

Having thus made our position perfectly clear I wish to repeat to you my conviction that war between our two peoples would be the greatest calamity that could occur. I am certain that it is desired neither by our people nor by yours and I cannot see that there is anything in the questions arising between Germany and Poland which could not and should not be resolved without the use of force if only a situation of confidence could be restored to enable discussions to be carried on in an atmosphere different from that which prevails to-day.

We have been and at all times will be ready to assist in creating conditions in which such negotiations could take place, and in which it might be possible concurrently to discuss the wider problems affecting the future of international relations, including matters of interest to us and to you.

The difficulties in the way of any peaceful discussion in the present state of tension are however obvious and the longer that tension is maintained the harder it will be for reason to prevail.

These difficulties, however, might be mitigated if not removed provided that there could for an initial period be a truce on both sides, and indeed, on all sides, to press polemics and to all incitement.

If such a truce could be arranged, then at the end of that period, during which steps could be taken to examine and deal with complaints made by either side as to the treatment of minorities, it is reasonable to hope that suitable conditions might have been established for direct negotiations between Germany and Poland upon the issues between them with the aid of a neutral intermediary if both sides should think that would be helpful.

But I am bound to say there would be slender hope of bringing such negotiations to a successful issue unless it were understood beforehand that any settlement reached would, when concluded, be guaranteed by other powers. His Majesty's Government would be ready if desired to make such contribution as it could to the effective operation of such guarantees.

At this moment I confess I can see no other way to avoid a catastrophe that will involve Europe in war.

In view of the grave consequences to humanity which may follow from the action of their rulers, I trust that Your Excellency will weigh with the utmost deliberation the considerations which I have put before you.

Yours sincerely,

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.