

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of
The Prime Minister

Name of Publication.....

C27581C

Date.....

Subject.....

similar doctrine for Europe—and above all for the territory and the interests of the greater German Reich.

Moreover I would obviously never presume to address such a request to the president of the United States of America, because I assume that he would probably rightly consider such a presumption tactless.

XVII

The American president further declares that he would then communicate information received, by him concerning the political aims of Germany to other nations now apprehensive as to the course of our policy.

The answer: How has Mr. Roosevelt learned which nations consider themselves threatened by German policy and which do not?

Or is Mr. Roosevelt in a position, in spite of the enormous amount of work which must rest upon him in his own country, to recognize of his own accord all these inner spiritual and mental impressions of other peoples and their governments?

XVIII

Finally Mr. Roosevelt asks that assurance be given him that the German armed forces will not attack, and above all not invade, the territory or possessions of the following independent nations. He then names as those coming into question: Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Iraq, The Arabias, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Iran.

The answer: I have first taken the trouble to ascertain from the states mentioned firstly whether they feel themselves threatened, and secondly and above all whether this inquiry by the American president was addressed to us at their suggestion or at any rate with their consent.

The reply was in all cases negative, in some instances strongly so. It is true that I could not cause inquiries to be made of certain of the states and nations mentioned because they themselves—as for example Syria—are at present not in possession of their freedom, but are occupied and consequently deprived of their rights by the military agents of democratic states.

Apart from this fact, however, all states bordering on Germany have received much more binding assurances and above all suggestions than Mr. Roosevelt asked from me in his curious telegram.

But should there be any doubt as to the value of these general and direct statements which I have so often made, then any further statement of this kind, even if addressed to the American president, would be

equally worthless. For ultimately it is not the value which Mr. Roosevelt attaches to such statements which is decisive, but the value attached to these statements by the countries in question.

XIX

But I must also draw Mr. Roosevelt's attention to one or two historical errors. He mentions Ireland, for instance, and asks for a statement to the effect that Germany will not attack Ireland. Now I have just read a speech delivered by De Valera, the Irish taoiseach (prime minister), in which, strangely enough, and contrary to Mr. Roosevelt's opinion, he does not charge Germany with oppressing Ireland, but reproaches England with subjecting Ireland to continuous aggression at her hands.

With all due respect to Mr. Roosevelt's insight into the needs and cares of other countries, it may nevertheless be assumed that the Irish taoiseach will be more familiar with the dangers which threaten his country than the president of the United States.

In the same way the fact has obviously escaped Mr. Roosevelt's notice that Palestine is at present occupied not by German troops but by the English; and that the country is having its liberty restricted by the most brutal resort to force, is being robbed of its independence and is suffering the cruellest maltreatment for the benefit of Jewish interlopers.

The Arabs living in that country will therefore certainly not have complained to Mr. Roosevelt of German aggression, but they do voice a continuous appeal to the world, deploring the barbarous methods with which England is attempting to suppress a people which loves its freedom and is but defending it.

This, too, is perhaps a problem which would have to be solved at the conference table, that is, in the presence of a just judge, and not by physical force, military means, mass executions, burning down villages blowing up houses and so on. For one fact is undoubtedly certain: In this case England is not defending herself against a threatened Arab attack, but as an interloper, and, without being called upon to do so, is endeavoring to establish her power in a foreign territory which does not belong to her.

A whole series of similar errors which Mr. Roosevelt has made might be pointed out, quite apart from the difficulty of military operations on the part of Germany in states and countries, some of which are 2,000 and 5,000 kilometers away from us. In conclusion, however, I have the following statement to make:

XX

The German Government is nevertheless prepared to give each of the states named an assurance of the kind desired by Mr. Roosevelt on the condition of absolute reciprocity, provided that the state wishes it, and itself addresses to Germany a request for such an assurance together with appropriate proposals. As concerns a number of the states included in Mr. Roosevelt's list, this question can probably be regarded as settled from the very start, since we are already either allied with them or at least united by close ties of friendship.

As for the duration of these agree-

ments, Germany is willing to make terms with each individual state in accordance with the wishes of that state.

But I should not like to let this opportunity pass without giving above all to the president of the United States an assurance regarding those territories which would after all give him most cause for apprehension, namely, the United States itself and the other states of the American continent.

And I here solemnly declare that all the assertions which have been circulated in any way concerning an intended German attack or invasion on or in American territory are rank frauds and gross untruths. Quite apart from the fact that such assertions, as far as the military possibilities are concerned, could have their origin only in a stupid imagination.

XXI

The American president then goes on to declare in this connection that he regards the discussion of the most effective and immediate manner in which the peoples of the world can obtain relief from the crushing burden of armaments, as the most important factor of all.

Mr. Roosevelt perhaps does not know that this problem in so far as it concerns Germany has already been completely solved on one occasion. Between 1919 and 1923 Germany had already completely disarmed—as was expressly confirmed by the Allied commissions—the extent of this disarmament being as follows:

The following military equipment was destroyed:

- 1—59,000 guns and barrels,
- 2—130,000 machine guns,
- 3—31,000 minenwerfer (mine-throwers) and barrels,
- 4—6,007,000 rifles and carbines,
- 5—243,000 machine-gun barrels,
- 6—28,000 gun carriages,
- 7—4,390 minenwerfer carriages,
- 8—38,750,000 shells.