

so far as the authorities were concerned they were aware of the conditions which would result in such a pact at least from the early months of 1939, and yet no step was taken to clear up any fear on the part of Soviet Russia that all this delay meant a prepared and tacit attack upon Soviet Russia. I continue to read:-

"For some time past there has been anxiety in those circles about the rapid evolution of the National-Socialist system in the direction of autarchy and collectivisation. People do not disguise their fear of seeing this tendency...."

I imagine the tendency of the government interfering with business -

"...still further strengthened by political co-operation between Berlin and Moscow. It is felt moreover that such cooperation would aggravate the risks of an early aggression by the Reich against Poland and thus precipitate a general conflagration."

There again is an official statement which indicates the possibility there in the situation, if it is not made clear by the democracies that they propose and intend a complete check on fascism and that they are by no means directly or indirectly, explicitly or implicitly concerned with the attack upon Soviet Russia.

I now refer to page 241, to a communication from the French Charge d'Affaires to the German Minister of Foreign Affairs dated August 1, 1939, as follows:-

"It may also be asked whether, in view of the slow progress of the Anglo-Franco-Soviet negotiations, the Nazi leaders do not feel tempted to return to the plan of lightning action, which would in a few weeks 'liquidate' the Polish army