

they amounted to overt attacks on German territory, the German government decided that it was unbearable for a major power to tolerate the continuance of these conditions and the menace which was coming from outside. Also, it was necessary in the interest of the domestic peace of the German people to bring an end to these conditions.

After the governments of the democratic countries had sabotaged all the possibilities of revision which still could have been applied to secure the peace and tranquillity and the honour of the German Reich, the German government decided that Poland's attacks would have to be counteracted by similar measures. The German government is not willing to tolerate conditions in order to make it possible for Great Britain to execute her obligations to Poland. The German government is not willing to tolerate conditions similar to those now existing in Palestine, which is a British protectorate.

Particularly, and above all, the German people are not willing to continue to be ill-treated by the Poles.

5. The German government has therefore refused all attempts to force Germany by ultimatums, that the German army, which has taken steps for the protection of the country, should be withdrawn, which would amount to restoration of conditions of restlessness and injustice as they have existed before.

The threat that Germany would otherwise be attacked in war is in complete harmony with the intention of the large number of British politicians as announced over a number of years. The German government and the German people have assured the British people time and again that they are desirous of bringing about an understanding with them, and even to establish a close friendship.

If the British government has refused to consider all these offers, and now makes a reply consisting in overt acts of war, this is not the responsibility of the German people and its government, but exclusively of the British cabinet. Those men who for years have been preaching the destruction and eradication of the German nation are primarily to be held responsible. The German people and its government do not have the intention, as it seems Great Britain has, to rule the world, but they are determined to defend their own freedom and independence and primarily their own lives.

The intention which has been communicated to us on behalf of the British government by Mr. King Hall—(Commander Stephen King-Hall, retired naval officer who in private capacity sent anti-Hitler letters to German citizens)—an intention to destroy the German people even more than they have been destroyed by the Versailles Treaty—that intention we hereby take notice of, and we shall therefore reply to all acts of attack coming from England, no matter under what form, with the same weapons.

Berlin, September 3, 1939.