

others had been before him, and should there receive a statement of the demands to be accepted in their entirety, or refused?

I am not pronouncing any opinion upon the terms themselves, for I do not feel called upon to do so. The proper course in our view—in the view of all of us—was that these proposals should have been put before the Poles, who should have been given time to consider them and to say whether, in their opinion, they did or did not infringe those vital interests of Poland, which Germany had assured us on a previous occasion she intended to respect.

Only last night the Polish Ambassador did see the German Foreign Secretary, Herr Von Ribbentrop, once again. He expressed to him what indeed the Polish Government had already said publicly, that they were willing to negotiate with Germany about their disputes on an equal basis. What was the reply of the German Government? The reply was that, without another word, the German troops crossed the Polish frontier this morning at dawn, and are since reported to be bombing open towns.

In these circumstances there is only one course open to us. His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin and the French Ambassador have been instructed to hand to the German Government the following document:

“Early this morning the German Chancellor issued a Proclamation to the German army which indicated clearly that he was about to attack Poland. Information which has reached His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the French Government indicates that German troops have crossed the Polish frontier and that attacks upon Polish towns are proceeding. In these circumstances it appears to the Governments of the United Kingdom and of France that, by their action, the German Government have created conditions, namely, an aggressive act of force against Poland threatening the independence of Poland which calls for the implementation by the Governments of the United Kingdom and of France of the undertaking to Poland to come to her assistance. I am accordingly to inform Your Excellency that unless the German Government are prepared to give His Majesty's Government satisfactory assurances that the German Government have suspended all aggressive action against Poland, and are prepared promptly to withdraw their forces from Polish territory, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will without hesitation fulfil their obligations to Poland.”

If a reply to this last warning is unfavourable—and I do not suggest that it is likely to be otherwise—His Majesty's Ambassador is instructed to ask for his passports.

In that case, we are ready. Yesterday we took further steps towards the completion of our defensive preparations. This morning we ordered complete mobilization of the whole of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. We have also taken a number of other measures, both at home and abroad, which the House will not perhaps expect me to specify in detail. Briefly, they represent the final step in accordance