

collaboration in the necessity to maintain the peace of Europe. In this spirit I address my present communication to you.

In the first place I would remind Your Excellency that as the Czechoslovak Government adhered to their acceptance of the proposals for the transfer of Sudeten-German areas there can be no question of Germany "finding it impossible to have the clear rights of Germans in Czechoslovakia accepted by way of negotiations." I am quoting the words at the end of Your Excellency's letter to me of Friday last.

On the contrary a settlement by negotiation remains possible and, with a clear recollection of the conversations which you and I have had and with an equally clear appreciation of the consequences which must follow the abandonment of negotiations and the substitution of force, I ask Your Excellency to agree that representatives of Germany shall meet representatives of the Czechoslovak Government to discuss immediately the situation by which we are confronted with a view to settling by agreement the way in which the territory is to be handed over. I am convinced that these discussions can be completed in a very short time and if you and the Czechoslovak Government desire it, I am willing to arrange for representation of the British Government at the discussions.

In our conversations, as in the official communique issued in Germany, you said that the only differences between us lay in the method of carrying out an agreed principle. If this is so, then surely the tragic consequences of a conflict ought not to be incurred over a difference in method.

A conference such as I suggest would give confidence that the cession of territory would be carried into effect but that it would be done in an orderly manner with suitable safeguards.

Convinced that your passionate wish to see the Sudeten German question promptly and satisfactorily settled can be fulfilled without incurring the human misery and suffering that would inevitably follow on a conflict, I most earnestly urge you to accept my proposal.

I am, yours faithfully,

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.

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No. 10

*Translation of Letter from the Chancellor of the German Reich to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.*

September 27, 1938.

Dear Mr. CHAMBERLAIN,

I have in the course of the conversations once more informed Sir Horace Wilson who brought me your letter of September 26th of my final attitude. I should like, however, to make the following written