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(POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT),
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EUROPE.

GERMANY.

HITLER addressed the Reichstag on the afternoon of the 11th December. A short outline of world history, culminating in Germany's "defensive attack" upon Soviet Russia this summer preceded a long and vituperative catalogue of the acts of provocation and aggression of President Roosevelt—"the man who is the main culprit of this war," and this led finally to the announcement of a new alliance between Germany, Italy and Japan, and of the existence of a state of war between Germany and the United States. Göring, in his speech of thanks to his Führer, summed up the situation with the words: "A world war, in the truest meaning of the word, has broken out—a war between two worlds."

The terms of the new Tripartite Agreement of the 11th December, as announced by Hitler, proclaimed "a joint war against the United States and England," and Germany, Italy and Japan undertook "not to conclude an armistice or peace with the United States or with England" without complete mutual understanding, and to "continue the closest co-operation even after the victorious conclusion of the war, in order to bring about a just new order." It may be noticed that the individual signatories did not engage in no circumstances to conclude a separate peace. There are almost certain to be other clauses in the agreement or additional secret agreements. Germany had not actually wanted to declare formal war upon the United States, and even Hitler approached the subject in an oblique manner. The declaration appears to have come as a surprise to the members of the Reichstag, and not as an entirely welcome one, for while Hitler's announcement that he had handed the American Chargé d'Affaires his passport (which could have implied no more than the

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