

The Western fortifications which had been constructed at the cost of milliards were the final Reich frontier on the West.

If the British Government would consider these ideas, a blessing for Germany and also for the British Empire might result. If it rejects these ideas there will be war. In no case would Great Britain emerge stronger. The last war proved this.

IV

The reply of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom dated the 28th of August, 1939, to the German Chancellor's communications of the 23rd and 25th of August, 1939.

His Majesty's Government have received the message conveyed to them from the German Chancellor by His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin and have considered it with the care which it demands. They note the Chancellor's expression of his desire to make friendship the basis of relations between Germany and the British Empire and they fully share this desire.

They believe with him that if a complete and lasting understanding between the two countries could be established it would bring untold blessings to both peoples.

The Chancellor's message deals with two groups of questions:

Those which are matters now in dispute between Germany and Poland and those affecting the ultimate relations of Germany and Great Britain. In connection with these last His Majesty's Government observe that the German Chancellor has indicated certain proposals which, subject to one condition, he would be prepared to make to the British Government for a general understanding.

These proposals are of course stated in very general form and would require closer definition but His Majesty's Government are fully prepared to take them, with some additions, as subjects for discussion, and they would be ready, if differences between Germany and Poland are peacefully composed, to proceed so soon as practicable to such discussion with a sincere desire to reach agreement.

The condition which the German Chancellor lays down is that there must first be a settlement of differences between Germany and Poland.

As to that His Majesty's Government entirely agree. Everything, however, turns upon the nature of that settlement and the method by which it is to be reached.

On these points, the importance of which cannot be absent from the Chancellor's mind, his message is silent and His Majesty's Government feel compelled to point out that an understanding upon both of these is essential to achieving further progress.