

## XX

***The reply of the Government of the German Reich on the 3rd of September, 1939, to the communications from His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of the 1st and 3rd of September, 1939. [Unrevised text.]***

The German Reich government has received the ultimatum of the British government dated September 3, 1939. The German government has the honour to reply as follows:—

1. The German government and the German people refuse to accept from the British government the ultimate requests or to fulfil them.
2. Since a good many months, a condition exists at our eastern borders which in effect amounts to war.

After the Versailles Treaty had cut Germany to pieces, all German governments were refused a peaceful solution of these problems. The National Socialist government, too, has made efforts after the year 1933 to bring about a revision of the worst mistakes committed under the Treaty of Versailles by peaceful means.

It was in the first place the British government which made every practical revision impossible by their intransigent position.

If it had not been for the British government interfering, the German people and the German government are convinced that between Germany and Poland a satisfactory arrangement could have been brought about and a solution be found which would have been fair to both sides, for Germany did not have the intention and never has demanded that Poland be destroyed.

Germany only wanted to have a revision brought about of those stipulations of the Treaty of Versailles which well-informed statesmen of all peoples, for some time after the dictates of Versailles had been delivered, considered as unbearable for a big nation, as well as detrimental to the political and economic interests of the east of Europe, unbearable in the long run and, therefore, impossible to execute.

British statesmen were in line with these declarations when they said that the solution imposed forcibly on Germany in the east would only lead to future wars. In order to avoid this danger, it was the desire of all German governments, and particularly the intention of the present National Socialist people's government here, that a solution be found.

It is the responsibility of the policy of the British cabinet to have put obstacles in the way of such a peaceful revision.

The British government in an unprecedented step in humane history, has given plenipotentiary powers to the Polish government to undertake whatever actions Poland might want to consider. The British government gave assurances to the Polish government, no matter under