

endure defensively. Next we must convince our enemies of the enormous price they must pay to drive us back by force of arms. Then comes our bargaining, which must always be conducted so as to create friction. This can be done to some extent while hostilities are still in progress, but to a superlative degree if I can but entice my enemies to a peace conference while I still possess great bargaining power.

In the event of the worst, I can so fall back that I can lure my enemies to the edge of the quicksands behind which I have taken refuge—my last great line of defence, the line upon which I will risk my all. If they decide that the quickest way to end the struggle with me is the short route through the sands they will be dragged down into premature peace and leave me to rebuild my power.

The wondrous hope that quickens my pulse in the approaching crisis is that they will be weary of the long march and choose the nearest way. I shall tremble when they hesitate for if they decide to shut their teeth and go around the quicksands my sun of greatness will have set. For if my enemies but resolve to stand together upon the basis of the American terms and use every weapon they possess the Germany of the future will be but a great nation among a number of great nations and not the most powerful and awe-inspiring empire that the world has ever known.

FINIS