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## Weekly Political Intelligence Summary No. 195

FOREIGN OFFICE,  
(RESEARCH DEPARTMENT),  
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### EUROPE.

#### GERMANY.

INDUSTRIAL Germany has been the chief battlefield of the past week. Eight important factory centres in the Ruhr have been heavily attacked within four days: Krefeld on the 21st, Oberhausen and Mülheim on the 22nd, Elberfeld, Wuppertal and Remscheid on the 24th, Bochum and Gelsenkirchen on the 25th. Even allowing for the fact that damage has been unevenly distributed, this represents destruction of a concentration and intensity quite unparalleled. To the effects on factory buildings and plant must be added the dislocation in transport and supply services, the destruction of house property and the effect on morale of all these contributory factors. There is still no evidence that the efficiency of police and A.R.P. services referred to in this *Summary* a fortnight ago is, even by the latest attacks, materially reduced. According to German broadcasts of the 23rd a new order has been issued dealing with the accommodation of victims of air raids, including evacuees. The full text is not yet available, and the broadcast summary contains little, if anything, additional to the measures proclaimed by Ley, as Reich Housing Commissar, in his order of the 27th February last, with the exception that new accommodation may in future be reserved entirely for those "affected by the war," instead of for the rather wider list of preferred categories contained in the previous order. It is, therefore, difficult to understand why these regulations have been reissued by Ley in conjunction, this time, with Thierack, Minister of Justice, and with the approval of Bormann, head of the Party Chancery. One possible explanation is that the frontiers of Ley's domain are not clearly defined, and the order expressly states that the powers of Mayors to requisition premises under the Reichsleistungsgesetz are unaffected. Ley's local representatives are the Gauleiters. Also, it is not clear how far Ley can override the established legal rights of individual householders, and it is significant that lip-service is still paid to the voluntary principle. This may account for Thierack's intervention. On the whole the decree appears, at first sight, to have more propaganda than legal value, but this impression may have to be revised when more detailed information is available.

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