

*Extract from Speech by the Prime Minister at the Guildhall on November 9, 1939.  
(Delivered by Sir John Simon owing to the Prime Minister's indisposition.)*

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To those who speak no language but that of force, force is the only answer, and since we have been compelled to take up arms we shall not lay them down till we are assured that Europe has been freed from the threats which have so long paralysed the life of her peoples.

No doubt you have all read the communication which has been addressed by their Majesties the Queen of Holland and the King of the Belgians to His Majesty The King, as well as to the President of the French Republic and to the German Chancellor. Everyone will appreciate the lofty motives which have actuated the two Sovereigns in thus offering their good offices in the hope of avoiding a further extension of the war. I confess that I am not very hopeful of a satisfactory response from the German Chancellor in view of past experience. Nevertheless, we do not want to continue the war a day longer than is necessary if a satisfactory settlement can be obtained in another way.

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With such a spirit and such supporters and Allies we know that we cannot fail, and I cherish the firm conviction that we shall live to see the foundation laid of a new world in which freedom and humanity will have superseded oppression and the rule of force.

*Extract from The King's Reply of November 12, 1939, to the Peace Appeal of Their Majesties the Queen of the Netherlands and the King of the Belgians.*

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The essential conditions upon which we are determined that an honourable peace must be secured have already been plainly stated. The documents which have been published since the beginning of the war clearly explain its origin and establish the responsibility for its outbreak. My peoples took up arms only after every effort had been made to save peace.

The immediate occasion leading to our decision to enter the war was Germany's aggression against Poland. But this aggression was only a fresh instance of German policy towards her neighbours. The larger purposes for which my peoples are now fighting are to secure that Europe may be redeemed, in the words of my Prime Minister in the United Kingdom, "from perpetually recurring fear of German aggression so as to enable the peoples of Europe to preserve their independence and their liberties," and to prevent for the future resort to force instead of to pacific means in settlement of international disputes. These aims have been amplified and enlarged on a number of occasions, in particular in the statements made by my Prime Minister in the United Kingdom in the House of Commons on the 12th October and by my Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords on the 2nd November.

The elements which, in the opinion of my Governments, must form part of any settlement emerge clearly and distinctly from these declarations of policy. Should your Majesty be able to communicate to me any proposals from Germany of such a character as to afford real prospect of achieving the purpose I have described above, I can say at once that my Governments would give them their most earnest consideration.—GEORGE R.I.

*Extract from Speech Broadcast by the Prime Minister on November 26, 1939.*

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What is the purpose for which we are to-day standing side by side with our French and Polish Allies? The question has been answered over and over again by myself, by M. Daladier, by Lord Halifax, and other members of the Government. One would think that there could be no doubt about it, but there are still questioners who feel that we have not yet sufficiently defined our aims.