

1061.

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne
Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioner in Britain*

TELEGRAM 286

Ottawa, September 4, 1939

IMMEDIATE. Please advise immediately whether German Consuls have yet left England.

1062.

*Le consul général d'Allemagne au Premier ministre
German Consul General to Prime Minister*

Ottawa, September 4, 1939

Sir,

Conforming to a rule laid down by my Government, that no public slander against Germany is to be allowed to pass without formal refutation, I have the honour to lodge with you an emphatic protest against the wholly unwarranted accusations you have, according to official press reports, broadcast against Germany, as being guilty of "wanton disregard of all treaty obligations and peaceful methods of adjusting international disputes"; of having had "resorted to agencies of deception, terrorism and vengeance"; of relying "upon force"; of indulging in "lust for conquest"; of being determined "to dominate throughout the world", which you consider "the real cause of the war that today threatens the freedom of mankind."

I fully agree that the real cause of the present conflagration is to be found in an indisputable "wanton disregard of treaty obligations", a "resort to agencies of deception, terrorism, vengeance and force", a "lust for conquest and for domination of the world".

It was, indeed, "wanton disregard of treaty obligations" when the Allied and Associated Powers violated in the most flagrant way the freely undertaken obligation to make the so-called fourteen (and additional) points of President Wilson a basis of peace. On the strength of this agreement, which Secretary of State Lansing had bindingly concluded in the name and by the authority of the Allied and Associated Powers, Germany laid down arms in November, 1918, only to learn soon that she had become victim of cruel "deception" and had exposed herself to the worst kind of "terrorism and vengeance". By trusting in the Lansing Agreement, which was binding upon all enemy powers, it had become a defenseless object of "force, lust of conquest and determination to dominate throughout the world."

The so-called Peace Treaty which Germany, by every form of brutal force and starvation, was compelled to sign did not fulfil a single one of Wilson's fourteen (and additional) points. It was a gross breach of treaty on the part