

enter into direct discussions with Germany. It will be seen that paragraph four of the British reply on August 28 made plain the attitude of the Polish Government on this point.

The British reply was handed to Herr Hitler at 10.30 p.m. on August 28 and he promised to give a written reply the following day.

The German reply in writing was handed to His Majesty's Ambassador at 7.15 p.m. August 29. Apart from the complete distortion of the events leading up to the crisis the German Government's reply demanded the arrival in Berlin of a Polish emissary with full powers during the course of the following day.

The reply of the British Government is self-explanatory. It was communicated by His Majesty's Ambassador to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs at midnight August 30. Herr von Ribbentrop's reply was to produce a long document which he read out rapidly in German. It was apparently the 16-point plan which the German Government have since published. When Sir Neville Henderson asked for the text of these proposals in accordance with the undertaking in the German reply of August 29 Herr von Ribbentrop asserted that it was now too late as the Polish plenipotentiary had not arrived in Berlin by midnight as had been demanded by the German Government in their communication of the previous evening.

The Polish Government on learning of these developments informed His Majesty's Government during the afternoon of the 31st of August that they would authorize their ambassador to inform the German Government that Poland had accepted the British proposals for negotiations.

The Polish Ambassador in Berlin (M. Lipski) was not received by Herr von Ribbentrop until the evening of the 31st of August. After this interview the German Government broadcast their proposals forthwith. M. Lipski at once tried to establish contact with Warsaw but was unable to do so because all means of communication between Poland and Germany had been closed by the German Government.

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The statement of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom delivered in the House of Commons on the 1st of September, 1939.

"I do not propose to say many words to-night. The time has come when action rather than speech is required. Eighteen months ago, in this House, I prayed that the responsibility might not fall upon me to ask this country to accept the awful arbitrament of war. I fear that I may not be able to avoid that responsibility, but at any rate, I cannot wish for conditions, in which such a burden should fall upon me, clearer than they are to-day.