

into a collective security pact with Russia at the moment, and Russia felt that unless she could walk into Poland and meet the Germans there and take their stand that the whole thing would be meaningless, because Germany would be able to slice through Poland, as was the case, and would immediately go through Russian territory to a point overrunning Moscow, and the military events have endorsed that point of view.

MR. MARTIN: What were the reasons on the other foot? What contribution did the U.S.S.R. make itself to the breakdown between the democratic powers and the U.S.S.R.?

MR. COHEN: I say they made every contribution which a nation could make. Russia had entered the League of Nations; it had charged Litvinov with being, so to speak, the prime mover in the collective security pact. Russia offered its armies, its people, its land and its blood in that cause; what more could a nation have done? It stood there and asked for the negotiations to go on between itself and France and Britain even after Munich.

MR. MARTIN: I want something more. All you say may be true, but do we know the reasons for the breakdown on both sides? I do not think we do, do we? There is always a speculation. I am not apportioning the blame, but we do not really know why the British Mission failed in Moscow.

MR. COHEN: No, nor do we know why there was no British Mission in any sense of the term, because it is notorious that what was sent to Russia was not a mission equipped as to personnel and programme, designed to do business, a most unusual business.

MR. MARTIN: You do not know, and I cannot see why we are labouring something which we cannot know anything about.