

in that country as an encouragement thenceforward to unloosen, under cover of such a charter, a wave of appalling terrorism against 1,500,000 German inhabitants living in Poland. The atrocities which since then have been taking place in that country are terrible for the victims but intolerable for a great power such as the German Reich which is expected to remain a passive onlooker during these happenings. Poland has been guilty of numerous breaches of her legal obligations towards the Free City of Danzig, has made demands in the character of ultimatata, and has initiated a process of economic strangulation.

5. The Government of the German Reich, therefore, recently caused the Polish Government to be informed that it was not prepared passively to accept this development of affairs; that it will not tolerate the further addressing of notes in the character of ultimatata to Danzig; that it will not tolerate continuation of the persecutions of the German minority; that it will equally not tolerate the extermination of the Free City of Danzig by economic measures—in other words the destruction of the vital bases of the population of Danzig by a kind of customs blockade; and that it will not tolerate occurrence of further acts of provocation directed against the Reich. Apart from this the questions of the Corridor and of Danzig must and shall be solved.

6. Your Excellency informs me in the name of the British Government that you will be obliged to render assistance to Poland in any such case of intervention on the part of Germany. I take note of this statement of yours and assure you that it can make no change in the determination of the Reich Government to safeguard the interests of the Reich as stated in paragraph 5 above. Your assurance to the effect that in such an event you anticipate a long war is shared by myself. Germany, if attacked by England, will be found prepared and determined. I have already more than once declared before the German people and the world that there can be no doubt concerning the determination of the new German Reich rather to accept, for however long it might be, every sort of misery and tribulation than to sacrifice its national interests, let alone its honor.

7. The German Reich Government has received information to the effect that the British Government has the intention to carry out measures of mobilization which, according to the statements contained in your own letter, are clearly directed against Germany alone. This is said to be true of France as well. Since Germany has never had any intention of taking military measures other than those of a defensive character against England or France, and as has already been emphasized, has never intended and does not in the future intend to attack England or France, it follows that this announcement, as confirmed by you Mr. Prime Minister in your own letter, can only refer to a contemplated act of menace directed against the Reich. I therefore inform Your Excellency that in the event of these military announcements being carried into effect I shall order immediate mobilization of the German forces.