

This leads me to the third question which lies within the scope of my enquiry viz the economic problem. This problem centres on the distress and unemployment in Sudeten areas, a distress which has persisted since 1930 and is due to various causes. It constitutes a suitable background for political discontent. It is a problem which exists; but to say that the Sudeten German question is entirely or even in the main an economic one is misleading. If a transfer of territory takes place it is a problem which will for the most part fall to the German Government to solve.

If the policy which I have outlined above recommends itself to those who are immediately concerned in the present situation, I would further suggest:

(a) That a representative of the Sudeten German people should have a permanent seat in the Czechoslovak Cabinet;

(b) That a Commission under a neutral chairman should be appointed to deal with the question of the delimitation of the areas to be transferred to Germany and also with the controversial points immediately arising out of the carrying out of any agreement which may be reached;

(c) That an international force be organized to keep order in the districts which are to be transferred pending actual transfer so that Czechoslovak State police, as I have said above, and also Czechoslovak troops, may be withdrawn from this area.

I wish to close this letter by recording my appreciation of the personal courtesies, hospitality and assistance which I and my staff received from Government authorities, especially Doctor Benes and Doctor Hodza, from representatives of the Sudeten German party with whom we came into contact and from a very large number of other people in all ranks of life whom we met during our stay in Czechoslovakia.

Yours very sincerely

RUNCIMAN OF DOXFORD.

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No. 2

*Joint Message to President Benes of Czechoslovakia from the Ministers of the United Kingdom and France at Prague.*

September 19, 1938.

The representatives of the French and British Governments have been in consultation to-day on the general situation and have considered the British Prime Minister's report of his conversation with Herr Hitler. The British Ministers also placed before their French colleagues their