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The letter from the German Chancellor to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, which was handed to His Majesty's Ambassador on the 23rd of August, 1939.

Your Excellency,—The British Ambassador has just handed to me a communication in which Your Excellency draws attention, in the name of the British Government, to a number of points which, in your estimation, are of the greatest importance.

I may be permitted to answer your letter as follows:

1. Germany has never sought conflict with England and has never interfered in English interests. On the contrary she has for years endeavoured—although unfortunately in vain—to win England's friendship. On this account she voluntarily assumed in a wide area of Europe the limitations on her own interests which from a national-political point of view would have otherwise been very difficult to tolerate.

2. The German Reich, however, like every other state, possesses certain definite interests which it is impossible to renounce. These do not extend beyond the limits of the necessities laid down by former German history and deriving from vital economic prerequisites. Some of these questions held and still hold significance both of a national-political and psychological character which no German Government is able to ignore.

To these questions belong the German city of Danzig and the connected problem of the Corridor. Numerous statesmen, historians, and men of letters, even in England, have been conscious of this at any rate up to a few years ago.

I would add that all these territories lying in the aforesaid German sphere of interest and, in particular, those lands which returned to the Reich 18 months ago, received their cultural development at the hands, not of the English, but exclusively of the Germans. And this, moreover, from a time dating back over 1,000 years.

3. Germany was prepared to settle the questions of Danzig and of the Corridor by the method of negotiation on the basis of a proposal of truly unparalleled magnanimity. The allegations disseminated by England regarding German mobilization against Poland, the assertion of aggressive designs towards Rumania and Hungary, etc., etc., as well as the so-called guarantee declarations which were subsequently given, had, however, dispelled the Polish inclination to negotiate on a basis of this kind which would have been tolerable for Germany also.

4. The unconditional assurance given by England to Poland that she would render assistance to that country in all circumstances regardless of the causes from which a conflict might spring, could only be interpreted