

5. If this well-staged "accident" were a bluff - as is now suspected in Holland, Belgium and Allied circles - it is still difficult to determine its purpose. It is an undeniable fact that German military concentrations opposite the Belgian-Dutch frontier have now assumed colossal proportions. Travel across the frontier is now almost prohibited; great secrecy is being observed in the German frontier sections; electrified barb-wire mesh fences are reported to have been extensively constructed along the border by the Germans to keep out spies and unauthorized travellers. The preparations behind the neutral frontiers are indeed alarming. But the effect of the "exposure", by military documents planted in Belgium, was merely to strengthen Belgian and Dutch counter-measures and improve their means of defense, and thus to thwart any contemplated future "Blitzkrieg" in these regions. It also served to reinforce the mutuality of defense-palans between Holland and Belgium, and potentially, between these neutrals and the Allies.

6. At present the only interpretation is that the German authorities sought to "test" how far those reactions and that mutual cooperation, would be pushed. In this way, supposing that all defensive measures by the neutrals would now be completed in consequence of this alarm, the German military authorities would be able to estimate the final amount of cooperative resistance by Belgium and Holland they would have to prepare to overcome, in their next and ultimate invasion. There is therefore some reason to anticipate that a new German threat, if and when it comes, may be a genuine one, based on the calculations of ultimate resistance now being made.

7. As to the possibility of creating a "crisis" in the direction of the Low Countries in order to screen