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A) 5. One of these new factors, it is suggested, was the disclosure alleged to have been made in Rome. According to information passed on, among others by the Japanese Minister in The Hague to me personally, certain German plans for an attack on the Low Countries, either on Saturday Jan. 13th or Wednesday Jan. 17th, became known to Italian diplomatic circles, and this information was privately given to French diplomatic circles who relayed it to Paris. The French Foreign Office is then alleged to have confidentially communicated the information to the Belgian Government or their Ambassador in Paris, and to the Dutch Government or their Minister in Paris. In support of this supposition is the fact that in Rome Count Ciano saw the French Ambassador on Jan. 12th; and in Paris the French President saw the Dutch Minister on Jan. 13th and M. Daladier saw the Belgian Ambassador on Jan. 15th. It is also significant that Dr. Colijn, the former Dutch Prime Minister now concerning himself with the League of Nations coordination plans for assistance to Finland, was in Rome for five days; he saw Count Ciano on Jan. 12th, and also the French Ambassador in Rome; on the 14th he stopped off in Paris for a day, and then hastened back to The Hague on the 15th. I am also informed privately that closest diplomatic contacts have been maintained between the Vatican (now in intimate touch with the Fascist Government) and the Papal representatives in Paris, Brussels and The Hague; and through these channels some diplomatic information may well have been passed on to interested governments.

6. Supporting this explanation is the fact that after the "alarm", the German press, obviously inspired, unitedly raised an angry criticism against France for having "given the show away" to the neutral