

He has chosen latter, whereby influence over junior Officers and men is very great. Wehrmacht leaders, however, are strong enough to control him.

F. Our own impressions are:

- (1) Negotiations must be considered still as in preliminary stages. Each successive visit has been made by an administrative, authoritative person. Any definite acceptance or refusal of proposals would be as yet premature.
- (2) A genuine Peace Party in Catholic South Germany appears to be in a position materially to influence course of events, if encouraged by feeling that they have moral support of H.M.G.
- (3) German delegation appeared to realise that game is lost, and they are trying to start Peace negotiations with a minimum loss of prestige. Although we have not in any way gone beyond your precise instructions, we have, in this connection, adopted sympathetic attitude, because we have impression that, should H.M.G. decide to consider proposals and grant armistice for their examination, the Wehrmacht would almost certainly find it impossible to recommence hostilities, and Allied Governments would then be in a position to impose such terms as they deemed fit. (Foreign Office representative said frankly that Germany could survive Winter of inactivity, but would not be in a position to do much afterwards).

Ends.