

About the middle of October and agent of ours in Holland was approached on behalf of a number of highly-placed German Army officers, the names of some of these being given to us in confidence. One or two of them expressed a desire to come out into Holland to have a discussion with our agent.

The intermediaries who approached our agent claimed that those whom they represented were opposed to Herr Hitler and to his plans and that German military inactivity was due to their opposition.

Two officers arrived in Holland on October 23rd and were interviewed by our agent. They gave it to be understood that their principals were seeking to bring about a change of régime in Germany, but they maintained that Herr Hitler would have to be retained as nominal constitutional figurehead.

They were told in reply that it would be impossible to convince people in this country that a change of régime in Germany which left Hitler in office was a genuine change.

In any event Germany would have to right the wrongs done in Poland and Czechoslovakia and give pledges that there would be no repetition of acts of aggression and that there would be an end of religious and political persecution.

We made it clear that we were answering only on our own behalf, but that we had every reason to believe that the French Government would give a similar answer. Neither France nor Great Britain, as the Prime Minister had publicly said, had any desire to carry on a vindictive war, but they  
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