

were determined to prevent Germany continuing to make life in Europe unbearable.

On October 30th a reply was received to the effect that the Wehrmacht would not countenance war of aggression and felt strong enough to take a leading part in the formation of a new Government in Germany, but would like to retain Göring alone of the Nazi leaders in office. Of this Government Herr Hitler would be the constitutional head, but that influence of the Wehrmacht would be decisive. Without giving any detailed indication of proposals that might be made by such a new Government, they declared that its object would be the return of Germany to peaceful and friendly relations with the rest of the world and that it would be sympathetic to a pan-European policy. The change-over in Germany from a war to a peace footing would only be possible with the full co-operation of all countries and therefore a real peace allaying all religious, nationalist and ideological differences would have to be guaranteed.

Our agent in Holland was authorised on November 6th, should he make contact again with the German representatives, to inform them that the first requisite was the restoration of confidence which had been destroyed by Hitler and the Nazi régime. Recent events had created the universal feeling that the present régime could not be trusted. The prime necessity therefore was to change the régime and the spirit behind it: we could not risk a renewal of what had occurred in the last few years and any new Government in Germany must be able to inspire confidence if discussions were to be possible/