

BRITAIN SHIFTS 'FRONTIER' FROM RHINE TO POLAND

Chamberlain's Pledge of Aid in Eastern Europe Breaks Precedent.

By WEBB MILLER
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LONDON, March 31 (U. P.)—Great Britain today shifted her military frontier in Europe from the Rhine to the Vistula River in Poland.

Only a few years ago the then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, focused attention on Britain's vital interest in maintenance of French independence by declaring that "Britain's frontier is on the Rhine."

Today in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's conditional pledge of military aid to Poland represented the most revolutionary alteration of British foreign policy ever undertaken in peace time.

Mr. Chamberlain, in shifting Britain's frontier to the Vistula, abandoned one of the cardinal principles of British policy which was opposed to commitments in eastern Europe. In the past, Britain had pursued a program of "splendid isolation."

Hesitated Over Alliance
She even hesitated until recently to link herself unreservedly with France.

But Mr. Chamberlain's statement, together with an understanding with France regarding military action if Holland or Switzerland were invaded, has now jettisoned traditional British policy.

Mr. Chamberlain has wholeheartedly adopted France's post-war policy of encirclement of Germany—a policy on which Britain long frowned as conducive to war.

Just how complete the British commitment to Poland will be, the Prime Minister made it clear that the pledge of British aid is dependent upon an aggressive attack on Poland, creation of a danger to Polish independence and action by Poland in respect to other words, the Poles must fight back before they can expect British help.

Viewed as Stop-Gap
In addition, Mr. Chamberlain's pledge was effective. That is, it was designed to stave off any sudden and immediate Nazi thrust at Poland during British-led consultations with European powers for a "halt Hitler" front.

Furthermore, Mr. Chamberlain did not absolutely bar return of Danzig or the Polish Corridor to the Reich. In regard to Danzig, it is possible that some arrangement could be made without endangering Poland's independence. In connection with the Corridor, Poland would be required to fight to defend it rather than accept any German proposals for a settlement before Britain intervened.

In any event, the suddenness of Mr. Chamberlain's personal shift from his appeasement policy to a policy of resistance and now to military pledges has amazed British political circles, including some of his Cabinet members.

Whether he will go farther and later extend or broaden the present "interim period" pledges regarding eastern Europe was yet to be clarified.

France Signs Trade Treaty With Rumania
PARIS, March 31 (U. P.)—France signed a trade treaty with Rumania today doubling her imports of Rumanian oil, in an indirect answer to Germany's trade drive in Eastern Europe.

France agreed to import 400,000 tons of oil and oil products, 8300 tons of grain and substantial amount of lumber. France also agreed to pay for all imports of Rumanian products without imposing clearing restrictions.

The treaty was initiated yesterday. It was signed at the Foreign Office at noon today.

Antioch to Be Bought
Under the Rumanian agreement to buy French automobiles, motorcycles, electric motors, airplanes, iron, pharmaceutical products, volatile oils, dyes and cotton thread.

As the treaty was signed the country was swept by a "Draft Lebrun" movement to keep President Albert Lebrun in office for a second term in the interest of national unity because of the suddenly portentous European situation.

Lebrun had not been a candidate to succeed himself next Wednesday when the Senate and Chamber of Deputies met in a National Assembly to name a chief executive for the seven-year term starting next month.

Leaders See Lebrun
A determination by the Government to back Great Britain in its "stop Hitler" drive and its firm refusal to make blanket concessions to Premier Mussolini brought a sudden move to keep M. Lebrun in office.

Other men who had been mentioned for the post, including Jules Jeanneney, Senate president, and Edouard Herriot, Chamber president, appealed to M. Lebrun personally to remain. Senators of the Left Democratic group, who form a majority in the Senate, authorized M. Jeanneney to speak in their name.

GIRL TO TOUR ZULULAND
DURBAN, South Africa, March 31 (U. P.)—Miss Doris McLaren of Vancouver, and her cousin Molly McLaren of Salisbury, Rhodesia, have arrived in Durban on their way to Zululand to see some wild animals. The two girls made the trip alone from Rhodesia in a battered car which they bought from an elephant hunter in Salisbury for \$100.

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Ambassador



MANAGUA, Nicaragua, March 31 (U. P.)—Meredith Nicholson of Indianapolis was received today by President Somoza in his new capacity as Ambassador to Nicaragua.

Mr. Nicholson, who previously had the rank of Minister, was raised to Ambassador in honor of President Somoza's inauguration for a new term yesterday and in keeping with the policy of the United States in giving more attention to South American relations.

JAPANESE SEIZE FRENCH ISLANDS
Annex Spratly Group Claimed by Paris in 1933 And Near Philippines.

TOKYO, March 31 (U. P.)—The Foreign Office announced today that it had advised France that Japan was annexing the Spratly Island group off the southeast coast of French Indo-China.

Charles-Arsene Henry, the French Ambassador, was notified of Japan's decision today, it was said.

France, in 1933 announced the annexation of the Spratly, Ambaina, Cay, Iru-Abi, Deux Iles, Loaita and Thi-Tu groups of tiny islands, hardly more than dots on the map, which spread eastward from a point about 300 miles southeast of Indo-China.

The groups—of which only Spratly was mentioned—lie between 7:52 and 11:29 north latitude, 111:55 and 114:25 east longitude.

Halfway to Philippines
They were about midway between Indo-China and Palawan Island, the westernmost of the Philippine Islands.

Explaining its action, the Foreign Office said that Japanese nationals had been active in the Spratly group since 1917. The statement continued:

"But the absence of administrative jurisdiction over the reefs has not only caused inconveniences with regard to protection and regulation of lives and property and enterprises of Japanese nationals there but has been likely to give rise to unnecessary disputes with France."

Talks With U. S. Delayed
Foreign Minister Hachiro Arida had planned to see the United States, British and French Ambassadors together today. It was understood that he intended to try to smooth over disputes regarding China and to assure the Ambassadors that Japan did not intend to enter a military alliance with Germany and Italy aimed against the democracies.

This plan was canceled and the French Ambassador was called in alone.

It was understood that Minister Arida still intended to give the assurances, possibly tomorrow.

BRITISH 'LIES' FOMENT CRISIS, NAZIS ASSERT

Grave Situation Develops After Chamberlain's Pledge to Poles.

BERLIN, March 31 (U. P.)—The Nazi press—as if at a prearranged signal—united today in a bitter attack on Great Britain.

Immediately after announcement of British and French military pledges to Poland, the state-controlled Nazi newspapers marked a sharp increase in tension between the two nations by a campaign which apparently had been arranged by the Propaganda Ministry.

"English lying agitation regarding Poland," screamed the headline in the Lokalanzeiger, denouncing as "lies" the London rumors of German troop movements toward the Polish Corridor.

"Fake English report from the Polish frontier," said another typical headline, charging Britain with falsely building up a crisis on the basis of rumors in order to further her program of encirclement of the Reich.

Fuehrer Hitler's next move may follow quickly.

Diplomatic quarters made no effort to conceal their fears that the international situation was becoming grave again.

"Impudent English lies about a German ultimatum to Poland," read the newspaper Nachttausgabe headline. "Invented reports of troop movements."

"A new lying maneuver by England against Germany," the Angriff, newspaper of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, said.

SWITZERLAND ACTS TO GUARD FRONTIER
ZURICH, Switzerland, March 31 (U. P.)—Switzerland has taken emergency precautions within the last few days to guard all frontiers against surprise attack, it was learned today.

All frontier residents liable for army service are ready to fight within two or three hours after an alarm and they possess emergency ammunition whose exact nature is secret.

The Federal Government has ordered all mines along the frontier loaded ready for use, and roads and bridges specially guarded.

Measures taken in view of alarming reports are more extensive even than those taken in September during the Czechoslovak crisis, it was understood.

Boettiger Baby Arrives; F.D.R.'s 9th Grandchild
SEATTLE, Wash., March 31 (U. P.)—President and Mrs. Roosevelt's ninth grandchild—a husky boy weighing nine pounds, one ounce—waited lustily today in his crib at Swedish Hospital.

Nearly was the child's mother, Mrs. John Boettiger, wife of the publisher of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Both mother and baby were reported "doing well."

Also nearby and beaming with pride was the President's wife, who arranged a Western speaking tour so she might be here for the occasion. She telegraphed news of the birth to the President in Warm Springs, Ga.

Relegated to the background in the excitement were Mr. Boettiger and Mrs. Boettiger's two older children, the former "Sister" and "Buzie," known now as Anna Eleanor Dall, 12, and Curtis Roosevelt Dall, 8.

The new addition to the family was delivered by Dr. Richard J. O'Shea. "The coming 'blessed event' had been announced several months ago by Mrs. Boettiger in the weekly women's page column she conducts in her husband's paper."

Mrs. Boettiger gave her age on hospital records as 32. Mr. Boettiger is 40. It is his first child.

The baby was not named immediately. A night nurse at the hospital said efforts were being made to keep the birth from creating "too much" publicity.

"The baby is so cute," she said.

'Good Neighbor'



Prime Minister Gives Pledge Against Draft in His Term of Office.

CANADA STANDS WITH AMERICA

OTTAWA, Ontario, March 31 (U. P.)—Prime Minister King declared in a foreign policy speech to the House of Commons last night that in the event of a European war, Canada would regard herself as a neighbor of the United States as well as a Dominion of Great Britain.

After announcing that there would never be conscription in Canada while his Government was in power and that any decision on peace or war would be left to Parliament, he said:

"The idea that this country, every 20 years, should take part in a war overseas to settle the self-determination of a European nation is a nightmare and sheer madness. . . . Men's lives and men's ills cannot be put on the same basis as goods and profits. Canadians, I hope, will be able to take a long range as well as short range view of where Canadian interests lie."

His reference to "short range" was interpreted to mean the view of those who think that Canada will collapse if it ignores the safety of the British Empire.

Then the Prime Minister added: "The second and enduring factor is our position as a North American nation and particularly our neighborhood to the United States."

Report Slovaks Yield And Give Hungary Land
BRATISLAVA, March 31 (U. P.)—Slovakia was reported to have capitulated today to a Hungarian demand for the cession of approximately 400 square miles of territory in eastern Slovakia.

Reliable reports said that Hungary previously had given Slovakia until noon (7 a. m. Indianapolis Time) to agree to the demands to end two weeks of sporadic fighting along the Hungarian-Slovak border.

Hungary rejected Slovakia's counter demands for the exchange of Ukraine populated territory in east Slovakia for Slovak populated areas in northern Hungary.

FRANCO SIGNS ANTI-SOVIET PACT, REPORT
Paris Reports Adherence Was Kept Strictly 'Political.'

ROME, March 31 (U. P.)—All Fascist newspapers today reported in dispatches from Burgos that the Spanish Nationalist Government had joined the anti-Communist Alliance between Germany, Italy, Japan, Manchukuo and Hungary.

News agencies in Paris had similar reports, without confirmation. It was reported in Paris that Generalissimo Franco's adherence had been purely political, involving no military responsibilities.

Besteiro Ordered To Face Army Court
MADRID, March 31 (U. P.)—Spanish Nationalist authorities today ordered Julian Besteiro, Republican leader who remained here to hand over the city to them, tried Sunday by summary court martial.

Clamping down a stern martial law regime, the military authorities announced coincidentally an intensive drive against "Red" (Republican) leaders, of whom they asserted, many remained in the city.

It was announced that Senor Besteiro was in Madrid and that "every attention" was being given him.

Volunteered to Stay
A moderate Republican, who had refused to take any active part in the civil war, Senor Besteiro had charge of the work of feeding the women and children of Madrid during more than two years of siege.

He volunteered to remain here and see that the city was handed over to Nationalist authorities in proper shape. At first he was put under a military guard but it was emphasized that he had not been arrested. Yesterday it was reported that he had been taken to Burgos, the Nationalist seat of Government.

Curfew Enforced
An 8 p. m. curfew was imposed and authorities announced that only authorized Army men, Spanish Falangist (Fascist) Guards and work-bakers would be permitted to circulate during the curfew hours.

Valencia reported that carabinieri had arrested five of a score of youths who tried to raid the American Quakers' food warehouse. One of the youths was wounded after he fired on guards, it was said.

Stands for Negotiations
Reports of troop movements came after reports—which Poland denied—that Poland had rejected German demands: (1) That Danzig be handed over to Hitler; (2) that Poland permit Germany to build a "motor"—or military—highway across the Polish Corridor between Germany and East Prussia; and (3) that Poland "harmonize" her foreign policy with Germany's.

Mr. Chamberlain said his Government had constantly advocated adjustment by the means of free negotiation of the differences rising among the peoples of Europe.

In the opinion of the Government, there should be no question that is not open to solution by peaceful means, he declared.

Mr. Chamberlain said the Government could see no justification for the substitution of force or the threat of force.

Arthur Greenwood, acting leader of the Labor opposition, said Mr. Chamberlain's statement "might prove in its consequences to be as momentous a statement as has been made in the House for a quarter of a century."

Mr. Greenwood suggested that the statement might be regarded as the first step in development of a policy to deter or restrain aggression and urged the Government speedily to try to extend the arrangement to other powers, especially the Soviet Union.

"All Support in Power"
The exact phrasing of Mr. Chamberlain's pledge was: "In order to make perfectly clear the position of His Majesty's Government in the meantime before these consultations are concluded, I now have to inform the House that during that period, in the event of any action which clearly threatened Polish independence and which the Polish Government accordingly considered it vital to resist with their national forces, His Majesty's Government would feel themselves bound at once to lend the Polish Government all the support in their power."

Mr. Chamberlain told Mr. Greenwood that the pledge to Poland was intended to cover the "interim period." He added that others, including the Soviet Union, are being consulted.

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Britain and France Pledge Armed Aid To Poles in Crisis

Chamberlain Says Promise Will Hold Throughout Consultations.

(Continued from Page One)

ment would feel bound at once to lend the Poles all the support in their power.

Mr. Chamberlain began by saying that the government had no official confirmation of rumors of a projected attack on Poland and that the Government must not be considered as accepting such rumors as true.

It was believed in diplomatic quarters that the Government received secret information Wednesday night that Germany was massing men in East Prussia, Pomerania and Silesia.

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Reports of troop movements came after reports—which Poland denied—that Poland had rejected German demands: (1) That Danzig be handed over to Hitler; (2) that Poland permit Germany to build a "motor"—or military—highway across the Polish Corridor between Germany and East Prussia; and (3) that Poland "harmonize" her foreign policy with Germany's.

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Conference Suggested
Mr. Greenwood asked Mr. Chamberlain to consider calling a conference. Mr. Chamberlain said the Government had not reached any decision on the matter, but would call a conference. It thought that the best way to deal with the problem.

The House was tense but calm. The members cheered Mr. Chamberlain when he entered and cheered enthusiastically after the statement. The Prime Minister read it slowly, emphasizing especially the pledge to Poland. It was obvious that all parties approved the declaration. The entire proceedings took only 25 minutes.

Mr. Chamberlain's statement was made while a special Scotland Yard detail searched the Parliament Building and the London County Council Building for explosives after a series of terrorist bombings at Liverpool, Coventry and Birmingham, blamed on the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

The King was put under special guard.

Government Bonds Fall
The stock market was nervous on war fears. War loan bonds broke 9-16th of a point to 94½, a new low.

All Air Force leaves were canceled, it was reported in well-informed quarters, and Royal Air Force planes and warships were reported patrolling the North Sea and the English Channel coast ready for instant action.

High officials of the Foreign Office remained on duty throughout the night, napping as they could on couches.

Mr. Chamberlain advised all Cabinet members to remain in the London area until further notice.

He was conferring with Opposition leaders on the advisability of canceling the Easter recess of Parliament, due to start next Thursday, in order that he might be able to submit at any time the legislation which would be necessary if Britain were plunged into a national emergency.

BAYOU TOLL NOW 14; MORE BODIES SOUGHT
(Photo, Page 13)
VICKSBURG, Miss., March 31 (U. P.)—The death toll in Mississippi's worst highway disaster, the bridge washout at Clear Creek Bayou, stood at 14 known dead today and rescue workers believed it would increase.

Workers who dragged a half dozen automobiles and a truck from the muddy waters of the raging Bayou said at least two more machines containing four to six bodies remained at the bottom of the stream.

The automobiles were flattened by two sections of a 45-foot concrete span which fell late Wednesday night after the rain-swollen stream undermined it.

WARSAW EXPECTED TO FIGHT INVASION
WARSAW, March 31 (U. P.)—The statement by Prime Minister Chamberlain in the British House of Commons was hailed by people rich and poor throughout Poland today as they crowded to subscribe to a government defense fund.

The attitude of the people seemed that they would fight if their frontiers were violated.

Poland and Rumania Hold Guarantee Talks
BUCHAREST, March 31 (U. P.)—Intensive consultations have been proceeding between the Rumanian and Polish foreign offices for several days, it was understood today.

An existing alliance between Poland and Rumania stipulates aid only in the event one party is attacked by Russia.

ITALY WILL WIN, READY FOR WAR. DUCE DECLARES

Fascists Have No Fear of Battle, He Cries in Tour Of Calabria.

REGGIO DI CALABRIA, Italy, March 31 (U. P.)—Premier Mussolini told a wildly cheering throng of Calabrians today that the "the Italian people are ready to don their knapsacks because, like all young people, they are not afraid of war and they are certain of victory."

Praising the high birth rate in the Calabrian country, Sig. Mussolini shouted condemnation of "the exotic, idiotic fashion of keeping the birth rate low," and denounced the sterility of nations which, he said, when they are old "will be under the orders of young masters."

Shouts of "Tunisia" interrupted him.

Wild cries of praise interrupted him as he continued:

"What has been done in the first period of fascism has been noteworthy. But still more noteworthy is that yet to be done."

"After my speech to the shock troops at Rome (Sunday) there is very little to be added. We do not forget. We are preparing. We are thinking in terms of decades. Therefore we are always ready to wait, as befits people sure of itself because it has many weapons and very strong hearts."

(In his speech Sunday Sig. Mussolini named Tunisia, the Suez Canal and Djibouti, the ports of French Somaliland and terminus of the only railroad to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as problems outstanding with France.)

The Duce, on his first tour of the Calabrian country in Southern Italy, had ordered a national broadcast of his speech, and his hearers naturally listened for statements that might be interpreted in the light of his Mediterranean