

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."

Resitated Over Alliance

She even hesitated to 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 in practice remains to be seen. 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 to resist. In 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 "during the present consultation." That is, it was designed to stave off any sudden and imminent 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, an indirect answer to Germany's trade drive in Eastern Europe.

France agreed to import 400,000 tons of oil and oil products, 8,000 tons of coal, and substantial amount of lumber. France also agreed to pay for all imports of Rumanian products without imposing clearing restrictions.

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

Autos to Be Bought

Under H. Romania agreed 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 meet 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 Paul Reynaud, 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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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 newspaper 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 rumor in order to further her program of encirclement of the Polish Corridor.

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 plot against Poland," read the newspaper *Nachrichten*, headlined "Inventories reports of troop movements."

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

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's group of which only Spratly was mentioned—between 7:32 and 11:29 north latitude, 111:35 and 114:25 east longitude.

Halfway to Philippines

They were about midway between Island 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 Foreign Office continued:

"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 Arita 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 Arita still intended to give the assurances possible tomorrow.

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 military 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 curbing the Czechoslovak crisis, it was understood.

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."

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—wailed lustily today in his crib at Swedish Hospital.

Nearby 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 "Brother," known now as Anna Eleanor Dall, 12, and Curtis Roosevelt Dall, 8.

The new addition to the family was delivered by Dr. Richard J.

"The baby is so cute," she said.

'Good Neighbor'



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 National Government had joined the anti-Centrist 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 coincidently 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 working bakers would be permitted to circulate during the curfew hours.

Valencia reported that carbines 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.

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.

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

Britain and France Pledge Armed Aid To Poles in Crisis

Chamberlain Says Promise Will Hold Through-out Consultations.

cluding the Soviet Union, are being consulted.

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 23 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 94%, 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 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.

Greenwood Also Speaks

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 to extend the Government's speedily 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."

Workmen 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 flattered by two sections of a 45-foot concrete span which fell late Wednesday night after the rain-swollen stream undermined it.

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 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 sounded 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 as he continued:

"What has been done in the first period of fascism has been noted worldwide. But the most noteworthy is that yet to be done."</p