Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 684 of February 6, 1936, from the Legation at Vienna, Austria.

Source: NEUS WIEBER TAGBLATT, February 6, 1936.

(TRANSLATION)

Paris, February 5.

Vice Chancellor Starhemberg has authorized the representative of the Official News Bureau to publish the following declarations with regard to the interview which he had with the French Foreign Minister, M. Plandin.

"My private sojourn in Paris on my return journey from London to Vienna offered me an opportunity to pay a visit to the French Foreign Minister, M. Plandin and to hold with him, for purposes of mutual information, an informal and non-binding conversation.

I had an opportunity to define the point of view of the Austrian Government with respect to the current problems of European policy and to express the point of view of the Austrian Government that Austria reserves to herself full freedom of action and decision in all matters of internal policy, to which belong, of course, the question of the form of the state and that of restoration. However, according to the Austrian view this freedom of decision is not impaired by the fact that Austrian statesmen, fully aware of their responsibility towards Europe, do not intend to undertake anything which might disturb European peace. This declaration has been made on repeated occasions by the Austrian Government, particularly with regard to the question of restoration of the Hapsburgs. I have nothing to add to these declarations.

I emphasised, however, in my conversation explicitly that there cannot be a question of a declaration by Austria renouncing a possible reintroduction of a monarchical state form, but I again referred to the repeated declarations made by the Austrian Government that in this respect it will not undertake anything decisive without having established contact with the European powers.

As regards the possibility of an exchange of opinion between Austria and the Central European states, I expressed the conviction that such an exchange of opinion would be useful only if Italy, as a tested guarantor of Austria's integrity, would be invited to join therein."