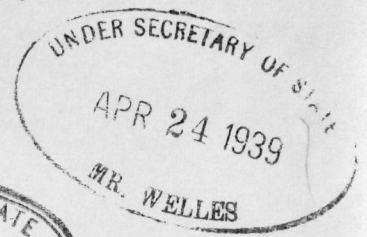


1195

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
A-M

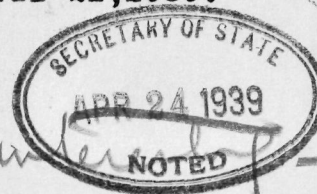


April 21, 1939.

Confidential

The Secretary ✓

U - The Under Secretary:



Through a friend whom I have always found to be reliable and whom I know to have intimate contacts with industrial circles in Germany, I have received the appended extracts from a speech delivered by Brinkmann at Cologne just shortly before his retirement and the report in the press that he was suffering from a nervous breakdown.

The appended is given to me as a correct translation of extracts from the remarks he made before this group of industrial leaders at Cologne. They are certainly not the remarks of a man suffering from delusions, nor do they give indications of impending mental breakdown. There are those who are well informed who believe that Brinkmann was suffering under great mental stress brought about by his feeling that economic and financial disaster were impending unless a decided change was made in the policy of the Government and that this speech at Cologne was a correct and frank statement of his preoccupations. According to these informed sources, it was this speech that brought about Brinkmann's retirement, not because

of

1195

-2-

of a nervous breakdown, but because the Government considered him a real danger because of his frankness.

G.S. Messersmith.


A-M:GSM:MJ