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Modern Times

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## ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS

### BASIS OF NAVAL AGREEMENT

### PRESS AND CHURCH CONFLICT

### THE PRINCE'S SPEECH

Herr von Ribbentrop is expected to return to London to-day and the Anglo-German naval discussions will be resumed to-morrow.

The basis of an agreement, which would give the German navy 35 per cent. of the British strength in each category, has already been laid down. It is believed that the 35 per cent. ratio is subject to the provisions that only ships under the age limits named in the naval treaties would be taken into account, and that the Germans agree not to speed up building.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN, JUNE 12

Herr von Ribbentrop, the Ambassador-at-Large, left Berlin by air for Berchtesgaden this afternoon to pay another visit to Herr Hitler before returning to London to resume the naval conversations on Friday. It is conceivable that Herr Hitler, to whom his Ambassador reported last week-end on his return from London, wished not only to have a last word on the naval programme, but also to discuss the development of Anglo-German relations in general in the light of the British Legion meeting and the Prince of Wales's speech.

The Press echoes to-day with an obviously genuine enthusiasm the assurances of a hearty welcome to British ex-Service men given last night by prominent representatives of the régime. A semi-official commentary welcomes the proposed exchange of visits on behalf of the present German Government, which, "as an avowed and deliberate representative of the War generation, has, with its desire for peace and its peace programme, born of the front-line spirit, given positive proof of the super-national usefulness of this outlook." At the same time the commentary corrects any tendency there may be to build premature and exaggerated hopes upon the proposed visits. Ex-Service men's associations in themselves, it observes, are not responsible departments of State, nor is the "front-line spirit" a political programme, containing complete in itself the necessary method of procedure for the fruitful regulation of international relations. But both the spirit and the associations are capable of influencing and facilitating the work of Governments and diplomacy.

## BRITISH DISCUSSIONS

The *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* notes that the possibility of an Anglo-German understanding is now the subject of lively public discussion in Great Britain, stimulated by Point 8 of Herr Hitler's speech, relating to naval policy, in which he is held to have offered the exclusion of any Anglo-German rivalry in the future. References are made to the letters to newspapers and to recent public utterances, in which the subject is treated not only from the political but more especially from the intellectual and spiritual point of view. These indicate that the question is under consideration whether something more than a political formula cannot be found for the relationship between the two countries.

The discussion, it is observed, embraces the differences in institutions and methods in the two countries; in their political ideas, conceptions of individual freedom, and, "especially, of course, the Church question." The *D.A.Z.* quotes indirectly from the leading article of *The Times* of yesterday the passage remarking that "these anti-Christian manifestations do not prevent political agreement with Germany, but they do constitute a hindrance to any true understanding between the two nations." The term "various things" is cautiously substituted for "these anti-Christian manifestations."

### "IN ALL OPENNESS"

It is a good thing (the comment continues) that these things should be discussed in all openness, both here and over there. The ex-Service men's mission of friendship must naturally somehow find support in public opinion which retains, under any régime, its function of forming (and not merely reflecting) the mood of the people.

Unfortunately, it must be pointed out, under present conditions in Germany these things cannot be discussed "in all openness," or, indeed, at all. The German public have been given no opportunity of learning, except from the most round-about hints, what the "various things" are which hinder any true understanding. Of the Church conflict they read next to nothing, except when a Minister makes a reference to it in a speech, naturally, entirely from the point of view of the régime. In the *D.A.Z.* article to-day the Confessional Synod at Augsburg is publicly mentioned for the first time in a two-line sentence. When the Archbishop of Canterbury, addressing Convocation on Wednesday, spoke hopefully about Herr Hitler's speech, only the most daring of the Berlin newspapers added that "the Archbishop also concerned himself with the German Church question."

\*\* In Point 8 of his Reichstag speech on May 21 Herr Hitler declared that Germany's claim to a naval strength 35 per cent. of that of Great Britain was "definitive and permanent."