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Vienna, October 3, 1935.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH AND CZECH
MINISTERS.

I had a talk with Selby at noon and told him about the hunting party which Gawronski is arranging for today to which Preziosi, Rudnay, Papen and Buresch are to be present. The idea is to get Buresch interested in forming a Ministry with some nationally minded persons in it. Buresch is picked because he has Reither behind him as well. Selby agreed with me that they would have little chance with Buresch and that they had picked the wrong horse to run the race for he would never start. Selby was bitter about Poland and Gawronski's attitude here which was that of a trouble maker and of a very stupid man.

Müller, of the FREIE PRESSE said that the Government was doing nothing towards influencing the press in the Italian situation, but that Preziosi and Morali were extraordinarily active. He had to throw one of the Italians out of his office the other day because he became so objectionable. Müller says that the tone of the press here is due to Italian pressure and money and not to the Government's attitude. This is in accord with what Berger told me yesterday when he said that they were not influencing the press, and when I wasn't quite sure of his sincerity.

I told Fierlinger about the hunt and he said that Gawronski tried to discredit him as a Bolshevik and Socialist just the same way he tried to discredit me when I came here. When Gawronski came here as Chargé he conceived the idea of splitting up the Little Entente. When he found this was too big a job for him he reduced his ambitions to splitting up Czechoslovakia. Fierlinger did not place so much importance on this hunt, for he says it is just like Gawronski and while Buresch is a slippery article, he is a very clever man and a good Austrian.

I confirmed through two sources that Germany offered the treaty of alliance first to Czechoslovakia, and Prague immediately informed Paris, Belgrade, and Warsaw, and refused. It was then offered to Belgrade which refused. It was only then that it was offered to Poland, and accepted but Poland didn't say a word to Prague or Paris.

He said that they had an arbitration treaty with Poland which covered "all cases". They had tried to arbitrate the question of the expulsion of some twenty Czecks and Poland would not answer. Poland had an air line from Moscow to Vienna over Czechoslovakia, but when they wanted to run a line which went through Poland, the Poles refused so Czechoslovakia has stopped the Moscow-Vienna line. He said that although the Polish minority in Czechoslovakia has good schools, etc., the Czechs in Poland have nothing.

He agreed that Austria would probably not leave the League, but would not join in sanctions.

He said that Beck sat in the Committee of five on Abyssinia at Geneva and never opened his mouth, but now the Polish press is against England.

He said that Berger was much depressed during his second visit to Geneva because of the talk he heard on every side about the end of fascism. He asked Benes what he thought about the Austrian position and Benes told him he was a good friend of Austria, but he said people saw that Mussolini and Hitler were not successes and that even in Yugoslavia they were talking of a return to democracy, so that a new atmosphere existed. This is exactly what I have had in mind as one of the things which is influencing the present Government. They are disturbed about their position.

He said that everything seemed settled at Geneva but now the Right Parties in France were wavering. They wanted to follow the same old policy of compromise. He confirmed that the Germans had just offered a treaty of friendship to France and that the Little Entente States had nothing against it if it was a collective treaty, which it obviously was not meant to be, but was offered merely to give Germany a free hand. This is all a part of the recent German activity such as the Hungarian-Polish visit to Berlin, Ribbentrop's visit to Brussels to take advantage of the dissatisfaction there, etc.,

It would be difficult to form a new Government in Italy as the King is a little weak and the Fascist groups are brutal and well organized, but there is leadership emerging.


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