

THE HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN GERMANY

On 20th March M. Ladislaus Bárdossy, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, left Budapest for Germany to visit Herr von Ribbentrop, Germany Foreign Minister. He was accompanied by Madame Bárdossy, M. Eugene Ghyczy, M. Tibor Bartheldy, and M. Anthony Ullein-Reviczky, Ministers Plenipotentiary, also by his personal secretary, M. Elemér Ujpétery, Secretary of Legation.

Before starting M. Bárdossy made the following statement to a representative of the Hungarian Telegraphic Bureau: „It is with great pleasure that I set out for Germany. This visit will give me an opportunity of establishing personal contact with the foreign Minister of the German Reich.

“Fruitful co-operation between Germany and Hungary is assured not only by the traditionally good and neighbourly relations arising from an old comradeship-in-arms, but also, since last autumn, by Hungary’s partnership in the Berlin Three Power Pact. But after all the real basis of our co-operation is not the dead letter of a treaty or even the memory, however sacred, of historical traditions that may grow faint with the passage of time; *it is the feeling, shared by both nations, of a community of interests and of interdependence, which are the best safeguards of our independent national existence.*”

“I attach particular significance to the fact that my meeting with the leaders of the Great German Reich is to take place just in Munich, where the process of deliverance from the shameful fetters of Trianon began two and a half years ago. I feel certain that my visit will not only serve as a fresh demonstration of the closer friendly relations between the two countries, *but will also help to make that friendship closer and stronger.*”

M. Bárdossy arrived in Munich on 21th March. He was met at the railway station, which was gay with flags, by

Herr von Ribbentrop, German Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Demeter Sztójay, Hungarian Minister in Berlin, and Baron Dörnberg, *Chef de Protocol*. Herr von Ribbentrop accompanied M. Bárdossy to his hotel, where Frau von Ribbentrop was waiting to receive Mme Bárdossy. M. Bárdossy's first act after his arrival was to place a wreath on the monument to the heroes of the National Socialist movement. After this act of reverence the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs paid a visit to Herr von Ribbentrop at his quarters in the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten. A long and cordial conversation took place between the two Foreign Ministers in the course of which all matters affecting the mutual interests of the two countries were discussed. After this conversation Herr von Ribbentrop entertained M. Bárdossy to lunch in the Prinz Karl Palace.

Herr Hitler's Conversation with M. Bárdossy.

On 21st March, at four o'clock in the afternoon, Herr Hitler saw M. Bárdossy in the Führer's palace in Königs Platz, where in the presence of Herr von Ribbentrop he had a lengthy conversation with the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The conversation, which lasted an hour and a half, was cordial in tenor. At its close M. Bárdossy presented the members of his suite to the Führer.

The following official report of the conversation between Herr Hitler and the Hungarian Foreign Minister was issued by the German Telegraphic Bureau:

„On Friday the Führer, in the company of Herr von Ribbentrop, received the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Bárdossy, in the Führer's Palace. The conversation between them took place in the spirit of the traditional and close friendship existing between Germany and Hungary. At its close the Hungarian Foreign Minister presented the members of his suite, Minister Plenipotentiary M. Tibor Bartheldy, *Chef du Cabinet*, Minister Plenipotentiary M. Eugene Ghyczy, head of the political department and Minister Plenipotentiary M. Anton Ullein-Revicky, head of the Press and cultural department.”

Herr von Ribbentrop's Toast.

At the lunch given in honour of the Hungarian Foreign Minister Herr von Ribbentrop addressed the following words to M. Bárdossy.

"Your Excellency, when in 1918 our two States laid down their arms after — as the Führer said — the greatest swindle ever heard of in the world's history, it soon became evident that Germany and her allies had accepted extremely hard terms. The path of suffering upon which the German and Hungarian nations entered proved to be hard, harder than might have been expected even from the most pessimistic predictions. In those days — days first of humiliation, then of apathy and finally of apparent deterioration — Germany and Hungary, as befitted countries who had been comrades-in-arms during the world war, *remained loyal friends, nay more, recognizing that they were bound together for better for worse by a community of interests, they drew even closer to each other.* No injustice and no sufferings, however, could quench the belief entertained by these two nations, burning with the same ardent patriotism, that some day a change was bound to come, and that both countries would escape from the path of humiliation which they had been forced to tread.

"Then when after a few years the Führer succeeded in rousing Germany from apathy and raising her to the position of one of the most powerful States in the world, the time came to break the intolerable fetters of Versailles and Trianon and to secure for our peoples the *Lebensraum* to which they were naturally entitled.

"In those years — I wish to stress this point — the Hungarian nation under the guidance of his Highness Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, entered into an increasingly close connection with the Axis, and from sufferings shared in common arose a community of action. Hungary was the first State to join the three Power Pact as represented by Germany, Italy and Japan. *That Germany and Italy took up cudgels for Hungary at that time was merely natural, and the circumstance that as events developed we were able to redress the serious territorial injustice done to Hungary in*

the Treaty of Trianon was a matter of particular satisfaction to us.

"In connection with this I cannot neglect to mention Your Excellency's predecessor in Office, Count Csáky, that Hungarian Statesman whose premature death was sincerely mourned by all of us. Count Csáky for whom we all cherished the most friendly feelings and with whom I myself co-operated closely, foresaw with sure instinct and clear vision the events that are now taking place in Europe, and drew his own conclusions for Hungary from what he foresaw. His work contributed in a decisive measure to the development of a close friendship between the two countries.

"Your Excellency, we have been told that it was Count Csáky himself who during his last illness suggested that should he be unable to resume office, *you were the man predestined to take up his work and pursue the policy so successfully inaugurated by himself, a policy that had proved so beneficial to his own country.* You may be assured that so long as you pursue that policy of close friendship with us and our two allies, you may count on the loyal support of the German Government and my own close co-operation. In this spirit I have the pleasure of welcoming Your Excellency most cordially on behalf of the Government of the Reich.

"Your Excellency, the allied Great Powers, Germany Italy and Japan, together with the friendly States who have joined the Three Power Pact of which Hungary was the first, are fighting their last fight against their last enemy, England. That the events of 1940 have already decided the war forced upon us by England's ultimatum of 3rd September 1939 in Germany's and her allies' favour, is something of which we are firmly convinced.

"The year 1941 will bring the final proof of this and the events of that year will force our enemy to admit her defeat. We are particularly pleased to see that Hungary — our old comrade-in-arms in the world war — is on our side and is contributing what she can to our victory. I drink to the health of His Highness Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary and to the future of the Hungarian nation."

M. Bárdossy's Reply.

The toast proposed in reply by M. Bárdossy was as follows:

"Your Excellency, I thank you with all my heart for the extremely warm words of welcome addressed to me and for the cordial reception I have enjoyed.

"I feel particularly gratified and honoured by the circumstance that my first official visit is to our close friend, the German Reich, and that thanks to this visit I have had the opportunity of establishing personal contact with your Excellency. I am also very glad that my first visit is to the town which saw the birth of the National Socialist movement.

"As an old student of the Berlin University and as a Hungarian I am always sincerely pleased when I have the opportunity of visiting the hospitable German Reich, when I step on the soil of a country to which Hungary is linked *intellectually, politically and economically and with numerous ties of sympathy.*

"With a clear conscience I may state that from the moment when we joined hands in a struggle against the tyranny and injustice of Versailles and Trianon Hungary's policy has undergone no change. The succeeding Hungarian Governments have always been aware that only extensive and close co-operation with the German Reich could bring redress of the national disaster that overtook the Hungarian people, and that nothing else would help us to achieve our righteous aims.

"I wish to express my most cordial thanks for your Excellency's statement that *it was a matter of particular satisfaction to Germany that Hungary achieved a territorial revision of the Trianon peace Edict.* I can assure your Excellency that the Hungarian nation rejoiced each time the great Führer of the German people — our comrades-in-arms and allies — with his matchless statemanship smashed one pillar after another of the Versailles Peace. The political instincts of the Hungarian people — who correctly realize the community of interests of the two nations — saw in the Führer's acts events of vital importance to themselves.

"I consider it my chief duty to carry on the work begun

by Count Csáky and to continue the successful foreign policy pursued by my country in the spirit of the German, Italian and Japanese Three Power Pact. I thank Your Excellency most cordially for your expression of trust and promise of support. Every Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs *must be proud to co-operate in a spirit of close friendship with the great German Reich, which is now fighting its last heroic fight for a just readjustment of Europe.*"

In conclusion the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs drank to the health of the Führer and the greatness and prosperity of the German Reich.

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