

ZBIGNIEW KULAK

RIBBENTROP — BONNET ENCOUNTER ON DECEMBER 6th 1938

The Author states that Germany intending to liquidate Czechoslovakia desired to gain the friendship of France. Germany could not, however, make the first step as this could arouse suspicions of its chief partner — Italy. That is why Germany created a friendly political atmosphere around France hoping that the formal proposal would come from her. This supposition was based on the knowledge of Auswärtiges Amt about the fears of isolation in French political circles exhibited after the signing of the Anglo-German Declaration. The German expectations were fulfilled when on October 13th 1938 for the first time François-Poncet proposed a Franco-German Declaration.

As to the problem whether Bonnet gave Germans "free hand" in the east or not, the Author underlines the fact that the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered the Paris encounter as a beginning of partition of influences in Europe expressed by French withdrawal from eastern Europe. Thus it is evident that the Germans were contemplating these matters before their talks with France. Whether the Germans were able to reach their aim and did Bonnet indeed express French désintéressement in the affairs of eastern Europe — this question cannot be answered as the available documents are not quite clear at this point.

The Author tries to give an answer based on the tendencies of French policy at that time and his supposition is that it is quite probable that Bonnet could have taken such an attitude.

ZDZISŁAW NOWAK

ECONOMIC POLICY OF WESTERN GERMANY AND THE ECONOMIC  
SITUATION OF WESTERN EUROPE

In the first part of his work the Author discusses the economic policy of the German Reich at the time of economic depression following the crisis of 1929. He proves that the escape from this depression was attained by economic isolation, tendency to self-sufficiency and chiefly by the militarization of German industry, what enabled the Nazi aggression.

In order to make impossible the future German aggression, the Allies, already during the World War II decided to dismount the German military industry. This dismounting was, however, discontinued soon after the war. As a result of enormous investments prior to, and during the World War II, Western Germany started with a considerably higher productive capacity after the war than in 1936 in spite of the war damages and partial dismounting.

The post-war prosperity in the West of Europe and the abolishment of production limitations for Germany enabled a great economic expansion of Federal Germany, especially in export industry.

The idea of economic cooperation in Western Germany was based on the exchange of German industrial goods for „irrelevant products“ of other countries. This has made most European capitalist countries debtors of Western