

MEMORANDUM**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Department of State intends to publish in the near future Volume XI of Documents on German Foreign Relations 1918-1945. This is one in the series of volumes of German Foreign Office documents which have been published since the capture of the German Foreign Office Archives at the end of the last war.

Three of the documents relate to Franco-Swiss discussions providing for cooperation in case German troops should first move into Switzerland. One is an unsigned memorandum which indicates that captured French documents revealed that Colonel Garteiser, on the staff of French General Georges and Colonel Gonard, on behalf of General Guisan, conducted the talks. The document itself emphasizes that French intervention was envisaged only in the event that German troops first moved against Switzerland.

The second document is a memorandum from Otto Köcher, German Minister in Switzerland in which he records a conversation with Colonel Ulrich Wille, Chief of Infantry of the Swiss Army. The memorandum indicates that Wille suggested to Köcher that he take up the matter of these Franco-Swiss discussions with the Swiss Government. Other documents show that the German Government did not follow up this suggestion through regular diplomatic channels.

The third document is a memorandum by Hans Adolf von Moltke, former German Ambassador to Poland, who had a special assignment in 1940 to examine and exploit captured French documents. This memorandum indicates that additional French documents had been taken which supplemented the earlier documents dealing with Franco-Swiss military conversations. It also emphasized that intervention was envisaged only in the case Germany first violated Swiss neutrality.

In April or May 1956, Ambassador Willis spoke with Minister Zehnder about the matter. He apparently was opposed to publication at that time and urged that publication be postponed. Changes were then made in the book in question at that time to allow for a delay of two years before the documents in question would be published.

The fact of Franco-Swiss military discussions have long been known. There are references to them in Ernst Weizsäcker's Memoires; in K. H. Abshagen's biography of Canaris, and in the testimony of Gottlob Berger at Nürnberg (Vol. 17, pp. 6877-6880 of the transcript of US vs. Weizsäcker et. al.)

It is now more than two years since the 1956 discussions and the original documents are now in the archives of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn where they are freely available to scholars. The British also make microfilms of the documents available in the Public Record Office in London.

General Georges + Canaris testified

Widremann 1949 Kleinverh. der Schweiz, Bd. 1, 2. Wk.
1957 Schweizer Geschichte.

Kurz 1957 Allg. Schweiz. Militärverh. Bd. 117 (1951) pp. 772/4.

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