Berlin Explains Views on Eastern Pact; Calls Military Clause Peace Menace

By The Associated Press.

BERLIN, April 13.—The text of a communiqué issued today by the German Government, giving its attitude on the proposed Eastern pact, follows:

Misleading statements in the press have induced the government to clarify its standpoint in the matter of an Eastern pact as follows:

First, the Fuehrer informed the British delegation that the German Government, to its regret, is unable to declare adhesion to an Eastern pact in its proposed form.

It is, however, ready to consent to such a collective security pact if it is based upon mutual and general non-aggression obligations and arbitration; if it provides for consultative procedure in case of disturbance of the peace; and, finally, the German Government is willing—while emphasizing the difficulties indisputably determining the aggressor—to join in general measures for non-support of such an aggressor. By this offer the government stands today.

Second, the Fuehrer intimated during this discussion that Germany is not able to consent to a pact proposal which for all or for individual States contains more or less automatic obligations for mili-

tary assistance, on the grounds that this would carry elements menacing peace rather than for maintaining peace. The German Government is still of this opinion.

Third, the government immediately, upon assuming power, expressed the wish to conclude nonaggression pacts with adjacent countries. It has made this proposal without the knowledge of and without reference to bilateral or multilateral pacts existing between single States. Since the German Government has no aggressive intentions it does not feel affected by defensive agreements. This standpoint the German Government still maintains.

Just as little as it is able to join a pact that contains such military obligations as essential elements, just so little can such agreements outside of this pact prevent Germany from concluding non-aggression pacts on the basis indicated above.

This is the gist of the govern-

Continued on Page Thirty-four.

The New York Times

Published: April 14, 1935 Copyright © The New York Times

GERMANY EXPLAINS ATTITUDE ON PACT

Continued From Page One.

ment's reply to the British Ambassador's questions as to whether Germany would be willing to join an Eastern pact also in case the other powers were to make special agreements among themselves.

The German Government, however, desires in this connection to make its standpoint fully clear: the completion of non-aggression and force exclusion pacts by engagements of military assistance, as considered necessary by the various powers, contained a selfcontradiction. Either one believes voluntarily in undertaken obligations or one does not. If one believes in them the necessity for such military agreements is not apparent.

If one doubts the honest observation of non-aggression obligation, then the same doubt is equally justified as applying to supplementary military obligations of such peace pacts. If it is possible that from non-aggression pacts wars may come, it is equally possible that from defensive aid pacts offensive acts may spring. Only it seems to the German Government that the way from non-aggression and exclusion pacts to a breach of peace is longer than the way from military obligations of a defensive nature to an offensive act.

The German Government still sees in this development of military alliances in Europe no element of a collective peaceful movement, nor yet a guarantee of peace. It is, therefore, unable to sign pacts which contain such obligations as an integral part, whether for all or for single participants. The foregoing has been communicated officially to the British Embassy in Berlin by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The New York Times

Published: April 14, 1935 Copyright © The New York Times