

# GERMANY TO-DAY

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## HERR HITLER'S FOREIGN POLICY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Dr. Karl Silex concluded his letter, published on April 17, with a brief quotation from one of my recent articles on the German upheaval in support of his contention that justice has not been done in Great Britain to Herr Hitler's pacifist inclinations. Dr. Silex, who omitted the important word "meanwhile" from his quotation, would seem to have misunderstood the tendencies the article was intended to convey. These tendencies might well be borne in mind by Great Britain while she continues, as in the past, to seek, in discussion -with Germany and other countries, means of securing the preservation of peace.

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Hitler had not, in his speeches as Chancellor, professed a peaceful foreign policy. Such a policy is self-evident; a country in Germany's present circumstances, just emerging from a national upheaval after more than a decade of international repression, has every interest in avoiding serious foreign trouble. But this does not prove that the underlying spirit of the new Germany is a peaceful one. All evidence available to the observer on the spot indicates that this Germany, in its present mood, is inspired by the determination to recover almost all it has lost and that it has little hope of doing so by peaceful means in the long run. The Eastern expansion policy represented by Herr Rosenberg, the new Nazi Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, would seem to carry its gaze still farther afield.

The military clauses of the Treaty of Versailles must be regarded as virtually dead. Germany is determined to have equality of armament at the earliest possible moment, pacts or no pacts, and nothing short of force is likely to stop

Homing snort or iorce is likely to stop her. Captain Göring's ideas about aviation are not hard to gather; General von Schleicher's " field exercise " schemes are well under way; some of the auxiliary police are to undergo proper training courses; labour conscription is in preparation ; and conscription of any kind is a useful foundation for modern war organization. Nor need all this be recorded unsympathetically; it is natural. Influential Germans do not see 10 years elapsing before the war they regard as natural or inevitable breaks out in Europe. One may hear, five or six years mentioned. When it does come they hope to be ready. " Meanwhile," as I wrote in my article, " peace is wanted." I am. Sir, &c.,  
YOUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.

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