

## Germany and the Finnish question

Berlin, 8th December

**In connection with the Soviet Russian-Finnish crisis, which has now become an open conflict, there have been attempts from various sides and above all from the lie kitchens of English and French authorities and editorial chambers to make Germany to share responsibility with the events in the north. In particular, it was alleged that Germany neglected her self-evident obligation to help Finland, with whom she is tied with so many common bonds.**

In the face of such malevolent as well as foolish and politically childish insinuations, it seems necessary to submit Germany's relations with the Nordic countries in the last 20 years under a brief critical examination.

There is no doubt that the Nordic peoples have always enjoyed in Germany a special sympathy based on historical and emotional background. But over the last twenty years, this sympathy has become more and more *o n e – w a y* only. When the German Reich was in a position of power in Europe, it was always a natural friend of Nordic interests. It had always remained faithful to this principle throughout its history, and has demonstrated this attitude innumerable times to the small Nordic countries.

When, at the end of World War, the Allies deceitfully left the German Reich in a position of impotence without any defense and help against the unjust and excessive demands of the so-called victorious powers, there was less any active support in Berlin - even taking into account that these countries were naturally not in the position to render it- but, at very least, sympathy and moral support of the Nordic countries for the unfortunate German people was expected.

The opposite occurred. In the years so bitter for Germany, none of the countries has thrown its weight against the monstrous injustice inflicted on the German people. It should have been clear to any rational thinker that sooner or later this injustice would result in retaliation, and by that the world will be driven into the harshest of unrest as it failed to bring about a timely revision to this. But instead of moving in this direction, the Nordic countries were from the very founding of the League of Nations in Geneva the most loyal adherents and defenders of this system, which with its whole structure was aimed at nothing but the eternal repression of Germany..

The Nordic countries remained loyal to the League of Nations even as its true nature as an executor of Versailles treaty and as the guardian of the status quo became clear to even the most naive of political minds.

In vain Germany waited for signs of sympathy, for a form of tangible moral support, but the matter either lacked interest or was restrained to the

ideologically diluted and powerless arguments in the framework of the Geneva Debating Club.

## Nordic countries in the English waterway

**The Nordic countries increasingly drifted into the waterway of English politics. The attitude in the Abyssinian conflict was also symptomatic of this, as the Northerners turned out to be such zealous advocates of the post-war system that they not only loyally took part in sanctions against Italy, but carried them out against Italy with a nearly suicidal conscientiousness. The few amusing exceptions only confirm this basic attitude.**

As the National Socialism rose to power in Germany and the people of Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler began to shake off its shackles, then this event was not welcomed by the vast majority of the Nordic press as happy, vice versa, almost every step towards German independence and every deed of the Fuehrer to abolish the Treaty of Versailles were subjected to a savage criticism .

**In the name of progress, in the name of humanity, in the name of liberalism and democracy, Germany was discredited, insulted and boycotted economically. There was hardly a day when not countless newspapers of the Nordic states practiced their presumptuous and offensive criticism on whatever action of the German politics. Every statement of the Third Reich was interpreted to its disadvantage and often accompanied with truly incomprehensible attacks by the papers.**

Systematic invalidation of everything that came from the Third Reich reached so far into the ruling circles, so that frequently official channels had to be taken by the German side in order to counter this unbearable situation.

The consequences of the systematic agitation against Germany in the Nordic countries became particularly striking, when Germany expressed her willingness to conclude a non-aggression pact with the small Nordic states during this year. While the pacts were entered with Denmark and the Baltic States, they were Sweden, Norway and Finland who showed no interest.

Sweden and Norway explained this with reasons of principle. Finland, however, refused to conclude a non-aggression pact with the German Reich, even though Germany had not been the first country with which Finland had concluded such a pact.

**Though the Finnish stand was at that time incomprehensible to the German political circles, based on experiences of previously unfolded events it was not a mistake to assume that the then time Finnish decision was largely influenced by the English warmongers, who through the offices of other Scandinavian politicians had spun a web of ties to Helsingfors [Helsinki].**

By this these countries revealed that, in spite of constantly repeated assurances of neutrality, they were less interested in creating a resolute and symmetrical peace in relation to all sides, than in the hope for political predominance on the very side they so greatly sympathized, but not assuredly for reasons of neutrality.

In this context, the peculiar concept of neutrality in the Nordic countries shows that they were just the Scandinavian countries, who granted recognition and moral

support over the Valencia regime, not only to the end but over that end, when it did not exist at all, and by continuing the policy of withholding the long over-due recognition from Franco at a time when any delay can only be interpreted as adopting an one-sided opinion against Franco, against Italy and against Germany.

Furthermore, it is significant that all these countries are still to this day members of the Geneva League of Nations, whose Article 16 has not yet been abolished, the notorious sanctions article, which binds the small states to the interests of Great Britain.

Since the outbreak of the war with the Western powers, the attitude of the Nordic countries has not changed, rather Germany, which has no differences of opinion with the Nordic countries and has always stood for their interests in its history, had to experience again that it is the Nordic states, which in their press and in their actions took anything but a benign attitude towards matters of importance for Germany.

Every country may choose her sympathy where she feels best. But then she should not complain about it if she does not receive the kind of sympathy she has been waiting for in vain for years. The German people have been forced into the present war by the actions of British warmongers, who were certainly not least supported by Scandinavian journalists and politicians.

**It is naive and sentimental at the same time to expect that in the struggle for its future the German people should now suddenly assist all the small states, which could not before have done enough to revile and vilify Germany. For years, the Reich has been treated at least with cool indifference, even haughty rejection, but very often with ill-concealed and open hostility. As you call into the forest, so it echoes back.**

**The German Reich is well aware of the obligations of gratitude and loyalty, but her friendship does not lie out on the alleyways, where anyone could, at will, pick it up again what he once was refused. The German Reich owes her loyalty to those loyal to it, the German Reich supports those who support it, the German Reich benefits those who benefit it.**

**The German people has nothing against the people of Finland, on the contrary. The German people has no animosity against the Nordic peoples.**

**It is to be hoped that the masters of destinies of our northern neighbors will one day ponder and wonder whether it is better, as in past years, to lend a willing ear to the whisperings of English League of Nations apostles and warmongers, or to give, because of the natural interest of their peoples, a visible expression of the friendship with the German people.**