

*M. K. Handwritten*

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D.C.,

February 24th 1939.

No. 232.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith the text of an address on "Our Foreign Policy" broadcast on February 20th by Senator Pittman, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

2. It will be seen that a large part of the Senator's speech consisted of a diatribe against certain foreign countries - his criticisms being divided more or less impartially between the three dictator states and the United Kingdom. Germany, Italy and Japan were described as "absolutely controlled by arbitrary and ruthless dictators", as following a "policy of conquest and domination through military force and the threat of military force", and as having "defied every instrumentality that governments have set up to protect the integrity and the rights of small governments against unjust domination and conquest and for the preservation of peace among all nations." Their "intent to dominate the world" was, the Senator claimed, "evident to any unbiassed thinking person" and he did not hesitate to accuse Herr Hitler of contemplating obtaining control over Siberia, Japan of seeking the overlordship of Eastern Asia and the Pacific Islands and all three governments of aiming at/

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

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at the ultimate domination of Latin America.

3. His Majesty's Government on the other hand were criticised for their policy of appeasement which Senator Pittman alleged had not contributed anything to the cause of peace, but on the contrary had only served to encourage the ambitions of the dictator states. It was the attitude of His Majesty's Government and their pursuit of appeasement which, the Senator declared, had facilitated the successes of the three totalitarian governments in Manchukuo, in Abyssinia, in Austria and finally in Czechoslovakia. The policy of appeasement had accomplished nothing for peace, for justice or liberty. In fact, the Senator said, the most that could be said for it was that "it had postponed for a few days the execution of the victims."

4. It might have been expected that after so much criticism of foreign governments Senator Pittman - especially in view of the responsible position he occupies - would have given some clear indication of the policy which he thought the United States Government should adopt or of the line they should follow in the event of the European war, of which he seemed so apprehensive, breaking out. His speech was, however, singularly devoid of any constructive suggestions. He certainly condemned any policy of isolation, and declared that the United States would defend its people and its institutions against any attacks. But although he specifically referred to the provisions of the existing Neutrality legislation, he was careful

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to avoid making any mention of the possibility that this legislation might be amended or giving any indication whether or not he shared the views commonly attributed to the President in this connexion. The most that he said in this regard was "We will not aid a government whose policy is based upon conquest and military domination. We will not refuse the oppressed governments any aid we may legally give them, short of war."

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) R. C. LINDEAY,