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Reference:-

CAR 21/1393

XC/A 0147

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MAJOR CORNWALL-JONES.POSSIBLE GERMAN ACTION IN THE SPRING OF 1940.

I had not forgotten that you had asked me to let you have an advance copy of the appreciation which the Allied Military Committee have been preparing, even if only in draft form.

Unfortunately, the final developments in the preparation of this appreciation have not provided a complete draft at any particular stage. The situation at the moment is that most of the report has gone, in bits, to the printer. It would have been of no value to send you these bits. The Conclusions themselves are on the point of being completed and when this has been done the whole paper will appear almost at once from the printer in its final form. Consequently, I am afraid you will have to wait until the whole paper appears, signed, sealed and delivered, probably next Tuesday.

Incidentally, having developed, naturally, a somewhat fatherly interest in the appreciation I am very anxious that the Joint Planning Sub-Committee should look at its construction and contents from the proper aspect. It must always be remembered that it is a joint agreed paper and that alone is not an inconsiderable achievement, when, as one knows, British and French views on many fundamental matters are, by reason of their relative positions in Europe, very far apart.


In the course of preparing the appreciation complete accord was reached on the conclusions which should be drawn and the various figures and facts contained in the review. Naturally this took a little time but there was ultimately no necessity for undesirable compromise on either side. In phrasing the contents of the paper it was necessary all the time to compete with the French mental outlook on things. For that reason, in many places the report appears long winded and perhaps even the arguments may appear unnecessary.

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complicated in construction, but without that compromise difficulties would have arisen. Finally, it would be easy enough, I think, for anyone to pick out those parts of the report which were first drafted by the French and those first drafted by the British. I think it is remarkable, under the circumstances, that the whole layout of the report conforms so closely to English standards, considering that French Staff methods of preparing appreciations are very different from ours.

What I am wondering now is what anybody intends to do with this appreciation now they have got it.

(sg2) A. W. CLARKE.

19th January, 1940.