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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The news all day was about a tall, powerfully-built, rather sinister looking man with a square face, singular dark eyes, and a thin-lipped mouth like a straight line. More about Rudolf Hess, much more. A story not only one of the most fantastic of the war, but one of the most extraordinary in history. It also carries intimations of the utmost import - hints and possible revelations of startling things about the war that is shaking the world.

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More and more today the news tended to interpret the
— *that is interpret*
amazing escapade of Hess in terms of two other names - Stalin and
Hitler. There's no official explanation from London. Today Prime
Minister Churchill told the House of Commons that he did not desire
to make a statement to clarify the mystery that has the world agog.
Winston Churchill contented himself with the following comment:
"This is one of those cases," said he, "in which the imagination
is somewhat baffled by the facts."

So
~~It certainly is~~ and the material we have to work with *is*
mostly
unofficial. But there's a lot of this material - facts that
give vivid hints, word from authoritative sources, insistent rumors.

London opinion more and more comes around to the theory that *the*
Nazi Number Three Man, Rudolf Hess, fled from Hitler's Germany
because of a new and closer collaboration between Hitler and Stalin.

TP There have been indications of something like this during recent
days - Stalin taking over the job of Premier of the Soviets,
his first official position in the *Red* ~~Moscow~~ government. This followed
promptly by a Soviet dismissal of the Ministers of countries conquered

by the Nazis - Holland, Norway, Yugoslavia. The Soviets withdrawing

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recognition. Then - Stalin's Red regime accorded recognition to the new government of Iraq, which ~~has gone to~~ ^{is at} war with the British. The latest has been - a trip by Hitler's Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop, to Moscow to confer with Soviet leaders, this believed to portend some new Development. And finally - an insistent rumor that there is to be a meeting between Hitler and Stalin.

Rudolf Hess was not an official of the German government. ~~He was~~ ^{but} Hitler's chief director of the Nazi Party. He represented Nazi Party views, was an extremist, bitterly hostile to Communism, enemy of the Soviets and Stalin. One dispatch from London reads as follows:- "British quarters are advancing the sensational theory that ~~the Number Three Nazi~~ ^{Deputy Fuehrer Hess} split with Adolf Hitler because he believed that Hitler is leading Germany toward a full partnership with Russia." This line of British thought goes on with the thesis that Hess advocated war against Soviet Russia, that he backed the contention that Nazi Germany should make peace with the Western democracies and turn against the Communist power.

It has long been the understanding of the outer world that the principal sponsor for collaboration with Russia was the German general staff; but, it was also known that the army command was on the outs with the dyed-in-the-wool Nazi faction - Hess and others. So now it might be that Hitler has gone over fully to the side of the military leaders and their ideas of joining up a hundred per cent with the Red Army, leaving Rudolf Hess and his group out in the cold. Perhaps machination led the Nazi Number Three man to believe that he'd be purged. Or perhaps the elimination of so important an anti-Communist as Hess may be part of a bargain between Hitler and Stalin. London today states categorically that Deputy Fuehrer Hess fled to Scotland for his own safety, in fear of his life. A late dispatch from Vichy says that Hess narrowly escaped a Gestapo attempt to kill him.

The British report that their amazing visitor is in a strange state of mind - sort sort of exaltation. He seems to be animated by a kind of religious fervor. One British authority says - "He appears to have got religion." To this a dramatic fact is added. "When Hess parachuted to earth in Scotland on Saturday night, and was made a prisoner, his words were - 'I have come to save humanity.'" The

London implication is that the fugitive thought he was coming to
save humanity from the combined power of the Nazis and Communism.

INSIDE

I thought today - it would be interesting to talk to somebody who has known this Rudolf Hess, acquainted with him at first hand. So I got in touch with a friend of mine in Washington - who for ~~five~~ years lived in Germany, an important American business representative who had had close -- exceedingly close daily contacts with the Nazi government -- with Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Hess. "Oh yes," he said, "I can tell you a lot about him. I talked to him often. And found him dominated by two fanatical ideas - anti-Semitism and a hatred of Communism.

This informant went on to relate how Hess had come into prominence and had won his high status as a Nazi because of the violently-Anti-Jewish attitude and his bitter speeches against Soviet Russia, against Communism, against Stalin. His position was a personification of these two hatreds.

said this
"Every time I talked to him," recently returned friend of mine, today, "he would get around to anti-Semitism and anti-Communism. He couldn't keep those things out of his mind -- or out of his conversation."

Hess, my informant explained, was universally regarded as a member of the group of Captain Roehm - the Nazi extremist leader who

was shot with hundreds of his followers in Hitler's big blood purge. They too were the bitterest of anti-Semites and anti-Communists. The understanding is that they were purged because they came into the conflict with the German army command which was opposed to Nazi extremism. Rudolf Hess, said my informant, was of their opinion, but kept clear of the quarrel - thus escaping the blood purge.

"Hewas utterly devoted to Hitler," said my friend who knew him well. And then he went on:- "He was the coldest blooded man I ever saw, icy and arrogant. Had no feeling for anyone - except for Hitler."

The news accounts refer to Hess as the Number Three Nazi. This because of a declaration made by Hitler when the present war began -- naming his immediate successor as Goering. Then after Goering - Hess. My informant today held, on the other hand, that Hess was the Number Two Nazi. He told me of attending a Hitler address months before the war began, an address in which the Nazi Fuehrer named his successor, the one to take his place if need be. And he named -- Rudolf Hess. On this basis, we might reason as follows:-

The Hitler statement naming Hess was made before the Nazi Communist pact, at a time when Hitler and Stalin were still arch enemies. Then, after the Berlin-Moxcow agreement, Hitler named another order of the hierarchy: Goering to be the immediate successor - Goering, supposed to be in cohorts with the German army chiefs and in favor of collaboration with the Soviets. Hess after Goering -- Hess the antiCommunist, the Nazi extremist being demoted. This may seem to follow a significant pattern, a pattern in which the latest/might fit; with a new and closer tie between Hitler and Stalin, and with Hess this time fleeing from Germany, as the Gestapo tried to kill him -- if the Vichy report be correct.

EXPLANATIONS

today turns out to be
The Berlin version of the weird affair ~~is~~ rather wobbly, uncertain. (The first word from Germany was that Hess was insane, but the Nazi propaganda is shifting away from that. Today there were versions saying that the fugitive had been physically ill, and that this had affected his wits. He ~~xxx~~ is said to have resorted to occult ~~practitioners~~ *magicians,* ~~psychics,~~ astrologers, and such. "He was a generally unstable person", said a Nazi spokesman today.

The theme of insanity, however, was played down in later accounts, and Berlin intimated increasingly that Hess went on a peace mission - all on his own. Nazi propagandists said that he had an idealistic interest in peace, was disturbed because the British Empire was about to be destroyed. Odd, that anything like that should worry a Nazi ~~Number Three~~ *the Deputy Fuehrer.* man! But Berlin puts it in these words:- "Apparently he preferred personal sacrifice in order to prevent events ultimately ~~lead~~ *ing* to the destruction of the British Empire." Strange indeed. No wonder one Nazi spokesman described it in these words:- "An unusually tragic case of mental illusions."

The Germans cast out dark suggestions that Hess

intended to pay a visit to Britishers in high position, to interest them in plans for peace. Some notice has been taken of the fact that he landed ^{at} ~~in~~ the estate of the Duke of Hamilton. Rudolf Hess had been acquainted with the Duke of Hamilton in times before the war - especially in connection with the British expedition that flew over Mount Everest. Hess was interested in exploration, and the leader of the great Mount Everest flight ~~was~~ ^{who was then the Marquis of Douglas and} was the Duke of Hamilton, ~~then Lord~~ ^Λ However, London states definitely today that Hess brought no peace proposals, nothing connected with peace. This was in answer to British rumors that the amazing visit had ~~something~~ ^Λ to do with a deep dark peace plot hatched by Hitler himself.

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Just how startling the event is in Germany is indicated by a news dispatch this afternoon. It related ^S ~~Λ~~ that Hitler had immediately summoned a conference of Nazi Party leaders, and today ^{Also that} addressed them in secret. ~~And~~ ^Λ Hitler has taken the post that Hess ^Λ ~~has~~ held as lead ^{or} of the Nazi Party. There's no ~~further~~ information about the ~~arrest of the lieutenants of Hess, who permitted him to~~

fly off in a fighting plane of the German air force. The Berlin bulletin used these words:- "permitted him to fly against orders." It is said that they will be punished if it is shown that they knew that Hitler had given orders that Hess should not be allowed ~~to have a plane~~. The family of the fugitive, his wife and child, are living in the southern part of Germany. "They were just as surprised as anybody else", said a Nazi spokesman today.

But what about the central character of all this melodrama - where is he now? London states that Rudolf Hess is in a hospital bed - recovering from ^{those} injuries incurred in his parachute jump, ~~which~~ a broken ankle principally. ^{But he} ~~He~~ is not insane! - This is reiterated. He is in his right mind, quite normal - thus denying the Berlin statements of mental sickness. He is said to be well and cheerful, has been given books and magazines to read - and writes a great deal. What he is writing would be interesting to peruse. London gives us the detail that the captain of a famous Scottish regiment is in charge of the Hess bedroom. The patient will be in the hospital for several weeks, and then he'll be given

residence in the country - the quiet tranquility of British rural scenery. They're giving the Nazi Number Three man the best of treatment - partly with the idea of having him talk. There is some report that Hess has already made important statements, and is expected to make more. Certain it is that Hitler's closest intimate can tell a great deal about Nazi secrets, military and political plans. He might reveal things that would be of incalculable value to Great Britain in the war.

Yet there's British misgiving about all of this.

Today in the House of Commons one member of Parliament warned Prime Minister Churchill to be careful in handling Rudolf Hess. The M.P. referred to what he called "this gentleman's record of devotion to the evil genius of Europe." An opposition liberal made a sarcastic remark, when he asked if British phonograph companies would be allowed to turn out records of "Deutschland über Alles" in order to prepare a welcome for Hess.

At Glasgow, near which Scottish metropolis the fugitive landed, the strange event is the talk of the town. The Scottish farmers who captured him are thrilled to have had a part

in so important an event. They speak rather admiringly of Hess, his manner, his appearance, the flying clothes he wore. "His boots were lovely," said the farmer's wife today.

The excitement in Glasgow is not shared in such pleasant fashion by the ~~Glasgow~~ town authorities. The Lord Provost there said it was no honor to have received the Nazi Number Three man - a danger in fact. He was afraid the Hitler air force might bomb Glasgow - perhaps in an effort to get Hess. The Lord Provost blamed the London Ministry of Information for having revealed that Glasgow was the place. He said they're always very secretive about telling ^{the city} when ~~Glasgow~~ was bombed, and now they should have consulted the ^{town} ~~city~~ ^{Father's before} ~~about the~~ revealing of such a thing as the arrival of Hess - ^{might} which involved the safety of citizens.

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The ^{wreckage} ~~XXXX~~ of the plane flown by Hess has been carefully examined - a Messerschmitt fighter in which he could never have gotten back to Germany. It didn't have enough range, enough fuel. It was a three-man plane, but he flew it alone. Hess had had some experience as a pilot, but he had never made a parachute jump.

British flying men today said he did an expert job, turning the

plane over - so that he would be thrown out and get clear for the parachute descent. The plane was smashed to smithereens, but one dramatic thing was realized when they examined the pieces. The tail section was riddled with holes made by machine gun bullets. A burst of fire put a spray of bullets through the tail. This raises the assumption that the German fighter plane had been attacked by Spitfires of the Royal Air Force - and almost shot down. But ~~that~~ isn't certain. The bullet holes in the Nazi warplane might have been acquired at some previous time - in an air fight. Or maybe Hess was pursued by Nazi planes when he escaped - an attempt by Hitler men to shoot him down. But this is not considered probable.

BULLETINS

Here are some late bulletins from various parts of the world.

In Iraq, where the British forces are pushing on, there was a radio broadcast summoning all Moslems to rise against the British. This call for a Holy War was voiced by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem -- a Mohammedan dignitary and arch-villain who has been in trouble with the British for a long time now. He demanded that all Islam give active support to the Iraq army, which is battling against Britain. And the Mufti said Palestine is in revolt.

From Turkey there's a report that two divisions of British troops have landed at Haifa -- in Palestine. They are said to be Greece. Empire veterans of the campaign in ~~Russia~~. Hundreds of tanks were put ashore, and large stores of other war material.

Unoccupied France - Vice Premier Darlan went into conference with Chief of State Marshal Petain -- this immediately following Darlan's return from Nazi Germany. At Berchtesgaden he conferred with Hitler and German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop. This news today was still another indication of the possibility of a new arrangement between the Petain government and the Nazi Reich - collaboration of some sort.

And now some collaboration ~~for~~ from Hugh.