

ITEM 5

Item 5 comprises in part an official letter from Keitel to Hitler in which the Former submits the following summarized draft for the Fuehrer's approval.

DRAFT FOR THE NEW DIRECTIVE GREEN (Czechoslovakia)

Berlin, 20 May 1938

1. Political Prerequisites:

Unless the moment becomes particularly opportune, it is not my intention to smash Czechoslovakia in the near future, without provocation.

2. Moral Capabilities for the Commencement of the Action:

Invasion without provocation or justification cannot be considered because of possible consequences.

Action will take place either after a period of premeditated diplomatic aggravation, in which case blitz action would still be a necessity, or through lightning-swift retaliation to a serious provoking incident, in which case military action would be justifiable in the eyes of at least part of the world. The latter is more favorable.

3. Conclusions for the Preparations of Case of Czechoslovakia

Military success must be accomplished within the first four days. Otherwise, a European crisis will certainly arise. (Armed War)

Czechs are to be threatened, thus reducing their defensive potential, Germans are to be directed to support the Armed War, and neutrals are to be influenced on our behalf. (Propaganda War)

All economic means possible are to hasten the collapse of Czechoslovakia. Hitler will determine the date for the opening of the Economic and Propaganda wars, which will precede the Armed War. (Economic War)

(The remainder of this draft is so similar to the final draft that it has been omitted here) (See Item 11)