

to make any mention of the incident at Venlo.

In favour of the second course it may well be that, in such matters honesty is the best policy, and that an account of what actually happened would heighten the existing impression that all is not well in Germany. Further, that if a circumstantial account were published by His Majesty's Government it would diminish any slight suspicion that we were after all somehow connected with the Munich bomb incident. Finally it can hardly be imagined that, if we stated publicly that has already no doubt been forcibly extracted from the unfortunate Stevens we should endanger any possible Monarchist plotters more than is already the case. On the other hand it may conceivably be that the Gestapo are waiting for us to confess that we were in touch, before November 8th, with what we imagined to be dissident Germans, in order to be able to say "That proves that Great Britain planted the bomb". Not that this would carry great conviction if by their own showing the coup was planned months ago in Switzerland⁷.

I confess that, as a choice of evils, the second course seems on the whole the better to me; and in the hope that His Majesty's Government will adopt it, or something like it, I submit a draft statement which might be issued to the Press.