

3 G/DY/36.

15th. January, 1941.

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I have given very careful consideration to the proposal made to me by Captain Count Skrzyński in his letter No. 45/41 dated the 4th. January in regard to the air attack of the Concentration Camp at OSTPACH. I have also discussed it with Air Charles Portal. Our conclusion is, I am sorry to say, that a successful attack on OSTPACH is not a practical proposition.

There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, my bomber forces have a major role directed against certain Industrial resources and provided we can achieve the necessary concentration it is estimated that we are likely to precipitate a crisis in Germany's war economy this year. This requires that we take advantage of every opportunity to strike against these targets with all our available force. The weather conditions which would enable us to attack targets in Poland are just those which allow us to engage our major targets in Germany.

Secondly, our experience shows that sporadic attacks on targets such as OSTPACH could be very unlikely to achieve the result for which it is hoped - namely, the destruction of barbed wire defences and an ammunition dump - in such manner as would permit the escape of the prisoners. Air bombardment of this nature would need to be extremely accurate if serious casualties were not to be caused amongst the prisoners themselves. Such accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

I am so sorry to have to give you this answer, but I know you will appreciate the reasons and the fact that only by rigid concentration of our bomber forces on the main objectives are we likely to be effective against our common enemy.

His Excellency,
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(Sgd.) R. E. C. PEIRSE.