

DOCUMENTS

On January 20, 1943, Japan, Germany, and Italy concluded agreements stipulating close economic co-operation among the three powers. This is the text of the Agreement Between Japan and Germany Concerning Economic Co-operation:

"The Imperial Government of Japan and the Government of Germany, in order to assist mutually with their total economic strength in the present war for the construction of a new order in Greater East Asia and in Europe and to realize after conclusion of the war in their victory a new order to secure the co-existence and co-prosperity of peoples concerned by a plan of extensive construction in their respective economic spheres, having decided to render still closer economic co-operation between them have agreed as follows:

Article I.—Japan and Germany shall accelerate and prosecute with all their power the exchange of economic goods and services in all branches between their spheres. They shall mutually assist in the procurement of materials and the installation of equipment, and to effect close technical co-operation.

Article II.—Japan and Germany shall effect close financial co-operation to facilitate payments arising from the enforcement of the provisions in the preceding article.

Article III.—Japan and Germany shall maintain close contact to make more effective their co-operation regarding the prosecution of their economic policies.

The Governments of the two countries shall create committees, appointed specially for the purpose, to pay constant attention to the development of economic relations between the two countries.

Article IV.—The competent authorities of the two countries shall make an agreement concerning the necessary details for the enforcement of the present agreement.

Article V.—The present agreement shall come into effect from the day of its signature and shall remain valid for the same duration as the Tripartite Pact between Japan, Germany, and Italy of September 27 of the 15th year of Showa or September 27, 1940." (Domei, January 21, 1943.)

The text of the agreement between Japan and Italy concerning economic co-operation is identical with that of the Japanese-German agreement.

Immediately after the signature of the agreement between Japan and Germany at the General Headquarters of the Führer, three agreements including concrete details pertaining to trade, technical co-operation, and payments were concluded at Tokyo.

January 30, 1943, was the tenth anniversary of the day when Adolf Hitler seized power in Germany. As the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the Führer spent the day at his Headquarters. But Dr. Goebbels read out the Führer's Proclamation in Berlin, which ended with the following words:

"The battle which the same enemies as in 1914 have forced upon us will be decisive with regard to the future existence or annihilation of our people. The Almighty will be our best judge. But it is our duty to accomplish our tasks in such

a manner that we can stand the test before Him, the Creator of all worlds, in accordance with the law of the struggle for existence given by Him. Then the great hour will strike in this gigantic struggle in which our people will be liberated from the exterior.

From the ruins of our towns and villages now life will spring to mold the State in which we believe, for which we fight and work: the Germanic State of the German nation as an eternal home for our people—the National-Socialist Greater German Reich. In it that strength will be inherent for all times to come which is necessary to protect also in the future the European family of peoples against the dangers from the east.

The Greater German Reich and the nations allied to it will moreover also jointly secure for themselves those realms of living which are indispensable for the preservation of the material existence of these peoples." (Transocean, January 31, 1943.)

The main speech of the day was made by Reich Marshal Goering over the radio. Since the eyes of the German nation and of Europe were directed at the fateful struggle in the plains of Russia, the major part of his speech dealt with the eastern front. The following are a few quotations:

"We now have a clear view of the Soviet losses, which will be made known in due course. A cold shiver runs down our spine on seeing these losses. It was a gigantic mass of human material which Stalin had at his disposal, and he has been forced eventually to put up reserves, underfed and badly clothed. His tanks, too, have become much worse, but they are still there. Stalin knows no respite, and does not allow his people any either.

With these gigantic masses the Soviets have penetrated here and there. It is difficult to fight in Russia, but especially so in winter. But the wonder of it all was that the German soldier stood the test

We have defeated the Russians until now and will continue to do so in the future. What is necessary now is to frustrate the Russian plan of reacquiring Russian raw-material bases and to drive them back—this is being done all along the line. Naturally the nature of the fighting has grown to gigantic proportions

Europe is perhaps now aware of the meaning of this fight and that the exhausted men who are still offering resistance are saving not only Germany but all of Europe and those states which are dozing in their neutral and easy life. England has never understood Europe and has never been able to stand up for it. But today England is betraying Europe most terribly

I am fully convinced, nay, I know that when the sun rises higher it will find German troops in the attack again, just like last year. Our troops will hold in their fists new and even better weapons. Steeled divisions will line up

For ten years the Führer has now been leading us from greatness to greatness, and within the next few years the Führer will lead us to the greatest victory of the German people." (Transocean, January 30, 1943.)