

BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, SWAZILAND.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE
No. 177 of 1939.

STATE OF WAR WITH GERMANY.

The following notification which appeared in the Third Supplement to the *London Gazette* of the 1st September is published for general information.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

H. E. PRIESTMAN,
Administrative Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Pretoria, 6th October, 1939.

Privy Council Office,
3rd September, 1939.

IT IS NOTIFIED THAT A STATE OF WAR EXISTS BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY AND GERMANY AS FROM 11 O'CLOCK A.M. TO-DAY, THE 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1939.

On the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin addressed on 1st September a communication to the German Government in the following terms:—

“ Early this morning the German Chancellor issued a proclamation to the German Army which indicated clearly that he was about to attack Poland.

“ Information which has reached His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the French Government indicates that German troops have crossed the Polish frontier and that attacks upon Polish towns are proceeding.

“ In these circumstances it appears to the Governments of the United Kingdom and France that by their action the German Government have created conditions (viz., an aggressive act of force against Poland threatening the independence of Poland) which call for the implementation by the Governments of the United Kingdom and France of the undertaking to Poland to come to her assistance.

“ I am accordingly to inform Your Excellency that unless the German Government are prepared to give His Majesty's Government satisfactory assurances that the German Government has suspended all aggressive action against Poland and are prepared promptly to withdraw their forces from Polish territory, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will, without hesitation, fulfil their obligations to Poland.”

At 9 a.m. on 3rd September His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin addressed a communication to the German Government in the following terms:—

“ In the communication which I had the honour to make to you on 1st September I informed you, on the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that unless the German Government were prepared to give His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom satisfactory assurances that the German Government had suspended all aggressive action against Poland and were prepared promptly to withdraw their forces from Polish territory, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom would, without hesitation, fulfil their obligations to Poland.

2. “ Although this communication was made more than 24 hours ago, no reply has been received, but German attacks upon Poland have been continued and intensified. I have accordingly the honour to inform you that unless not later than 11 a.m., British Summer Time, to-day, 3rd September, satisfactory assurances to the above effect have been given by the German Government and have reached His Majesty's Government in London, a state of war will exist between the two countries as from that hour.”

No such assurances having been received within the period stated, the German Chargé d'Affaires in London has been formally notified that a state of war exists between the two countries as from 11 o'clock a.m., 3rd September.