

The magnitude of the preparations in which the defendants were engaged make it difficult to believe that they did not know these preparations were for war; for aggressive war because they knew that the policy of the German government was one of aggression backed by the threat of force. The defendants all take the position that the evidence does not show that they knew there would be war. What the IMT said with reference to Rader seems a complete answer to this position:

"The defendant Raeder testified that neither he, nor von Fitsch, nor von Blomberg, believed that Hitler actually meant war, a conviction which the defendant Raeder claims that he held up to 22 August 1939. The basis of this conviction was his hope that Hitler would obtain a 'political solution' of Germany's problems. But all that this means, when examined, is the belief that Germany's position would be so good, and Germany's armed might so overwhelming that the territory desired could be obtained with out fighting for it." (IMT Judgment p.191)