

Distressed

"When I finally made her understand who I was, she was too distressed to say much. Whether she will stop over in New York before she leaves, if she leaves, I can't say."

(PM learned today that a friendly New York lawyer is trying to help the Princess.)

"The plain truth," Francis went on, "is that Steph's political activities ended with the outbreak of the war. Before then both she and Wiedemann had been trying to bring Lord Halifax and Goering together. Steph knew that Halifax headed England's peace party and that Goering was as much opposed to war as Goebbels, von Ribbentrop and Hitler were for it.

"At one point Goering was about to come to London. If he had, I am convinced there would have been no war. But the newspapers got wind of it and brought the negotiations out into the open too soon.

"The legend of Stephanie, spy and intriguante and God-knows-what, however, had been circulated long before that. She was one of Lord Rothermere's (late publisher of London's *Daily Mail*, *Evening News* and *Sunday Dispatch*) oldest friends. She knew that he was casting about for a good cause to champion. As a good Hungarian, she suggested he take up the cause of Hungary, which had been partitioned almost out of existence at Versailles.

Revisionist Campaign

"She convinced him that unless Hungary could recover some of her territory her people would starve. And so Rothermere, through his powerful connections and his newspapers, launched a revisionist campaign in behalf of Hungary. Steph advised and guided him in this and for years was his personal emissary to Europe's leading states. Hungary did get back some of her

