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For Memoirs

(1972)

Sir Frank Roberts, once British ambassador to Bonn and now connected with the European activities of Unilever and Dunlop, appealed to the Germans at Konigswinter not to be deceived by the British bent for self-denigration. Sir Frank quoted William Pitt in 1806: "There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair"; Lord Shaftesbury in 1848: "Nothing can save the British from shipwreck"; Disraeli in 1849: "In industry, commerce, and agriculture there is no hope"; and finally the dying Duke of Wellington in 1842: "I thank God that I shall be spared from seeing the consummation of ruin that is gathering about."

Extract from Economist, April 3, 1971

Germany and Britain
Well-heeled doubts