AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Berlin, Germany, May 24, 1933.

SUBJECT: With reference to a statement made by the head of the Provincial Organization of Physicians for Brandenburg and Gresnmark.

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the series of despatches beginning with No. 1196 of March 23 which I have addressed to the Department on the displacement from public office and disbarment from the professions of Jews, and particularly to my despatch No. 1330 of May 23 with reference to the present status of the anti-Semitic movement in Germany. As of very real interest in this connection, I now have to bring to the Department's attention the enclosed clipping from the "Berliner Aerzte-Correspondens" which is a weekly publication intended for the physicians in this city and this part of Germany. On page 171 there appears a statement by the Kommissar placed by the Government in the Provincial Organization of Physicians for the provinces of Brandenburg and Gresnmark, of which I give the following translation:

"OUT WITH THE JEWISH PHYSICIANS

The complete separation of Jews from the academic professions is a necessity. The
free academic professions, especially that of the physician, come in personal contact with the widest circles of the population and the physician particularly has an unusual position of confidence with his patients and has a decisive influence on their way of thinking. The professional board of directors of the physicians of Brandenburg therefore believes it unthinkable that in our peoples' state a Jew should have the possibility of scattering Jewish poisoned thought in this profession. Through the too large number of Jews it is unquestionable that the earlier ideals of the profession have largely been replaced by business methods. This spirit must be taken out of our profession and every possibility of its coming back put aside. With the most severe methods is this corruption, so far as it has entered the profession, to be eliminated. We German physicians therefore demand the separation of all Jews from the medical attendance on German citizens because the Jew is the incarnation of lying and deception. Further we demand that there should be a legal provision that the breaking of faith in the professions shall be made a crime and shall be punished with prison and the immediate separation from the profession. We physicians demand that the whole of the national peoples' professional organizations in Germany should support our demands.

(Signed) Dr. Ruppin

This extraordinary declaration is commented upon in a number of the leading newspapers. The "Berliner Tageblatt" of May 23, evening issue, quotes the German text of the declaration above given in translation, and states: "We believe that it is our obligation to give this declaration the widest publicity because it shows the kind of thing that one must not and dare not do". The article comments most severely on the form and content of this declaration by Dr. Ruppin and emphasizes that such statements that the Jew is the incarnation of lying and deception, are indefensible. The "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" also gives publicity to
to this statement of Dr. Huppin, criticizes it most severely and calls attention to the fact that it is such articles and such statements which cause Germany difficulty in her foreign relations.

In the excited state of public opinion in Germany and because of the peculiar psychology existing here at this time in practically all strata of the population, such a statement as the one above quoted does not arouse the general resentment and surprise one would expect. Attacks of this kind on Jews are common and for the time being it would appear that the really magnificent contribution which the Jews have made to German cultural, scientific and practically every aspect of German life, has been lost sight of.

What is to many the most lamentable feature of statements of this kind, is the fact that they are prompted not by an honest conviction that the Jews are a danger to Germany, but that they come out of professional or business jealousy and prejudice. This particular article was probably prompted by the fact, already reported to the Department in a previous despatch, that about two-thirds of the Jewish lawyers who previously practiced in Berlin have been re-admitted to practice. The non-Jewish physicians, many of whom would so prefer the elimination of the Jewish physicians, now fear that the public will continue to use Jewish physicians.

The principal reason, however, why I transmit the
above translation, is to point out that if it had appeared as late as three weeks ago, there would not have been a single voice raised against it. The censored press in Germany would have been either completely silent or would have approved the action. It is therefore highly significant that in the "Berliner Tageblatt" which is one of the most subservient instruments of the National Socialist Party now, this statement should be branded as the sort of thing which one does not do. While I do not believe that this can be hailed as an indication that greater freedom of the press may be expected, it is an indication that such extravagant statements as these no longer have the approval of the higher authorities. If they had such approval, a newspaper such as the "Berliner Tageblatt" would not for a moment consider making any criticism thereof or any comment except in approbation.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
"Berliner AmtsCorrespondenz".

900
GSM:P

A true copy of the signed original.