AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

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GSMIP

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH STAATSSECRETÄR GRAUERT IN THE PRUSSIAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

I called by appointment at 1:45 o'clock on Staatssekretär Grauert of the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, and I brought to his attention the case of Philip Zuckerman, the American citizen who was assaulted by S.A. men at Leipzig on July 16. I brought to his attention practically the same considerations in connection with the case, already set forth in my memorandum of this date on the conversation with Staatssekretär Schlegelberger, the Acting Minister of Justice of Prussia. Staatssekretär Grauert was most amicable and deeply interested and concerned. He expressed the deepest regret that this incident had taken place which he assured me was against the will of the entire higher leadership of the Party and of the S.A. He stated that he regretted that the incident was not within his jurisdiction and that as it had occurred in Leipzig the Saxon authorities at Dresden alone were competent. He said that if the acts had been committed within Prussia, the offenders would be "sitting in prison in as few hours as possible". He suggested that I get in touch with Staatssekretär Dr. Pfundtner in the Ministry of Justice for the Reich, so that the necessary steps could be taken from the highest judicial authorities.

Dr. Grauert was very energetic in his statements. He said that he was of the opinion that these acts of the S.A. men must be stopped and that five S.A. officers of very high rank had yesterday been brought to Berlin from Saxony because of disobedience to orders, and were now "sitting in prison". He said that Party discipline must be enforced and that Reichsminister Goering was coming back tomorrow, July 22, from his holiday, specially by aeroplane in order to preside at a meeting to which the highest Prussian authorities and highest leadership of the S.A. had been invited, and at this meeting it would be made clear that the S.A. men were not above the law and that their illegal acts will be punished in the same way as those of other law-breakers. Dr. Grauert said that once and for all the time had come when these acts must be stopped. There was no question in my mind as to his sincerity, as he spoke most

...
most frankly of the disciplinary action already
being taken in the Party, and of the determination
to put an end to disorder.

I mentioned the Orloff case in which he was
very much interested, and he said that it was
regrettable that the proceedings could not be
stopped and Orloff simply deported. He said that
he would interest himself in the case in the
morning and would endeavor to do what he could to
bring it to a speedy conclusion, which I inferred
from his conversation meant the boy's deportation.
He realized the unfortunate effect of the newspaper
publicity with respect to Orloff at a time when the
Zuckerman case was getting into print with the
background that S.A. men who had committed previous
similar outrages, had not been brought before the
tribunals. I particularly emphasized this aspect
of the Orloff and Zuckerman cases in all my conversa-
tions today.

Staatssekretär Grauert impressed me as being
an official of very high standing and this is par-
ticularly interesting as I have found that all the
men whom Reichsminister Goering has put into the
highest responsible positions under him are men
of a high type such as Grauert and Milch.

Dr. Grauert said that he thought it would be
desirable for the Ambassador to himself speak to
the Foreign Minister, Baron von Neurath, or to the
Chancellor with regard to the Zuckerman case. He
said it would give the Chancellor the proper
background for the action which Minister Goering
is going to take tomorrow with regard to the
enforcement of discipline in the S.A.

Dr. Grauert called Staatssekretär Dr. Pfundtner
in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Reich, to arrange
for an appointment with me the same afternoon, and
I was present during the telephone conversation,
from which it was clear that Dr. Grauert understood
the full importance of this case and was going to put
his whole weight behind an immediate and satisfactory
adjustment.

Sincerely,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.