SINCE I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of an affidavit executed by Mr. Samuel Brennan Bossard, a native born American citizen, with respect to the attack which was made on him on Thursday evening, August 31, on the Stresemann Strasse, one of the principal thoroughfares in the heart of Berlin.

Mr. Bossard is traveling in Germany and on Thursday evening, August 31, while returning to his hotel and when he had reached the opposite side of the street from his hotel, he found a troop of uniformed men and boys passing by so that he had to wait before crossing the street. Without realizing what had happened, one of these uniformed men struck him on the back of the head and knocked him down, and five or six others in the uniform of the "Hitler-Jugend" further attacked him. He states that there were two policemen standing nearby who saw the attack but who made
made no endeavor to assist him. When he complained to them they said: "What is finished is finished". It is quite probable that he was attacked because he did not salute with the so-called "Hitler-Gruss" this troop of young people in the uniform of the Hitler-Jugend. It is significant in this connection to note that this attack on Mr. Bossard took place in spite of the fact that a public declaration has been issued by the authorities, to the effect that foreigners are not expected to give the Hitler salute. Mr. Bossard is a young man of very high type and there is no question whatever in our minds that the attack was entirely unprovoked. It is particularly significant that the police who witnessed the attack made no endeavor to identify and arrest the persons who had attacked him although this should have been possible at the time.

A copy of the affidavit is being transmitted to the State Secret Political Police which are charged with looking into cases of this kind; but I am quite sure that in this instance it will be impossible to locate now any of the persons who were guilty of this attack. I am, however, calling the seriousness of the attack to the attention of the police in a letter transmitting the affidavit, of which a copy is transmitted herewith, particularly as repeated instances of this character are taking place. As I have indicated to the Department in my confidential despatch No. 1364 reporting a similar incident, this Consulate General is taking up the matter of these attacks with
with the Embassy with a view to reaching a decision as to whether a report may not have to be made to the Department, recommending the necessity of some public declaration being made by our Government that it is not safe for Americans to go to Germany.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
Copy of affidavit.
Copy of letter to Dr. Diels.