AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, November 18, 1933.

SUBJECT:
An example of the form of propaganda through which the National-Socialist party appeals to the German masses.

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to bring to the attention of the Department an address made by Dr. Kurt Fischer of the Berlin Labor Office, on the problem of unskilled workers, which is reported in an article appearing in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of November 18, 1933, transmitted herewith. I give below a brief resume of the article:

"In a noteworthy manner Dr. Kurt Fischer of the Berlin Labor Office on behalf of the Deutsche Arbeitsfront has expressed himself on the problem of the unskilled laborer. He brought out that the unskilled laborer so far has been principally employed in the mines and in the heavy metal industries, as well as in transport. Thanks to the measures taken by the Hitler Government for the creation of work, a considerable number of these workers have again been given employment. Nevertheless if no fundamental changes are made in the system in vogue, the fate of these unskilled workers will always remain uncertain on account of frequent changes in their job and their inability to settle down definitely in one place. A fundamental change therefore has to be brought about, as it would
would be unworthy of a people, every one of whom has learned to read and to write, that some are not given the opportunity to learn a trade or to enter a profession. In NATIONAL-SOCIALIST GERMANY EVERY SINGLE WORKING PERSON MUST BE GUARANTEED FOR HIMSELF AND FOR HIS FAMILY AN ADEQUATE INCOME. It is therefore essential to give the highest significance to the care given to the education of the young who have left school. The vocational guidance offices and the agencies for apprenticeships will have to be improved and special importance will have to be given to tests as to the fitness of applicants. In order to facilitate also the training of the poor, contributions shall be made out of public funds for their education. Private initiative is also to help in the setting up of additional apprentice shops. The power to work of the young is a precious value and has to be guarded carefully. The conception of an unskilled laborer as an analfabete of labor will have to disappear out of our vocabulary in the not distant future.

The German workman reads this and is convinced that for the first time a political party and the leaders of his country are giving thought to his fate. He does not realize the economic imposibility of such promises as those set forth in such glowing terms becoming a reality for him or for his children. He forgets that the largest single party in Germany before March 5, 1933, had for its program the uplift of the working classes in Germany and the amelioration of the conditions under which they worked and lived. The National-Socialist party has made itself the apostle of a new Germany which will for every single class of the population create unrealizable conditions and opportunities.

I am transmitting to the Department this resume of the statements of Dr. Fischer and this brief comment,
merely because it is indicative of the manner in which the National-Socialist party is appealing to all classes of the German population, and at the same time indicative of the hollowness and of the insincerity of the propaganda. There are many in Germany who fear that when these hopes which have been held out to every part of the German population, are not realized, these same masses will turn in a catastrophic manner against those under whose hypnotism they are at present living.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
Newspaper clipping.