Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 497 of July 5, 1935, from the Legation at Vienna, Austria.

Source: WIENER AKTUNG, July 14, 1935.

(TRANSLATION).

Radio announcements of Colonel Adam, Secretary General of the Patriotic Front and Chief of the Austrian Publicity Bureau on July 12, 1935.

Austrians! Two hours ago you learned through the Vienna radio the tragic news that the Chancellor and his family had had an automobile accident, in which the wife of the Chancellor, Frau Hermia Schuschnigg, was killed.

The Federal Government has authorized me to inform you of such details of the said event as are known up to now.

The Chancellor left Vienna this morning at 9.30 a.m. with his wife and son for St. Gilgen on the Wolfgangsee, where his family intended to pass the summer. The Chancellor was accompanied by his adjutants-lieutenants Colonel Hartl and Gendarmerie-Major Kern, and by a detective. The chauffeur Tichy drove the Chancellor's car. The adjutants followed in a second car at a short distance.

The catastrophe took place at 12.25 between Asten and Fischling. The Chancellor's car was moving on the straight road, which is kept in an excellent condition, at speed of about 60 kilometres. Suddenly the driver pulled the car round to the left and it hit a tree on the road with all its force. The Federal Chancellor was not hurt, but he was thrown out of the half-open car and remained for a short time unconscious on the road. The wife of the Chancellor was likewise thrown from her seat and was probably crushed with her head against the half-open roof of the car. The upper section of her spine was broken, and she probably died instantaneously. The Chancellor's son suffered slight injuries in the face. The chauffeur was very dangerously hurt and he is not in a position to answer questions. The gasoline tank of the chancellor's car caught fire. The persons in the following car, however, were able to extinguish the fire very quickly.

The investigations instituted immediately on the place of the accident, which has since been again examined...
examined, did not disclose any evidence concerning the
causes of the catastrophe. The surface of the road
is in very good condition; not the slightest traces
of malicious damage were noticeable.

There are only two possibilities: It is possible
that the driver of the car, a very efficient and ex-
perienced chauffeur, who had been in the employ of
the Chancellor for many years, suddenly felt ill and
thus lost the control over the car. It is, however,
likewise possible that during the drive a defect arose
in the car, which was noticed too late. Investigations
are, of course, being conducted along these lines. How-
ever, as has been mentioned, the chauffeur cannot be
questioned, and the car is demolished.

The Chancellor and his son were transported as
quickly as possible from the place of the accident to
the "Spital der Barmherzigen Brüder" in Linz. The
body of Frau Herm Schuschnigg was transported to
Keselberg near Linz and laid out in the death chamber
there.

The Federal Chancellor soon recovered in the
"Spital der Barmherzigen Brüder". Monsignor Professor
Katzinger from Vienna, who happened to be there, took
it upon himself to convey to the Chancellor the terrible
news of the death of his wife. The Chancellor expres-
sed his desire to be taken to the body of his wife im-
mEDIATELY. He proceeded to Keselberg, stayed in the
death-chamber for a quarter of an hour, and then re-
turned to the "Spital der Barmherzigen Brüder", where
his son is being treated.

The earthly remains of Frau Herm Schuschnigg will
be transported today at 5 p.m. from Keselberg to Linz
and laid out in state in the "Karmeliterkirche".

The Federal President, who received the news of the
tragedy with emotion, proceeded to Linz this afternoon.

The members of the Federal Government at present
in Vienna convened this afternoon at 3 p.m. under the
chairmanship of Federal Minister Dr. Burach. The
chairman, with great emotion, reported on the events.
Governor Dr. Gleissner, who is at the side of the Chan-
celler in these tragic hours, was instructed to ex-
press to the Chancellor the heartfelt sympathy of the Federal
Government and to lay a wreath on the coffin of Frau
Herm Schuschnigg. The Vice Chancellor interrupted his
leave and is already on his way to Vienna. Also the
other government members absent from Vienna will re-
turn today and tomorrow. Secretary of State Dr. Ferner
proceeded from St. Gilgen to Linz.

Dear listeners! In this serious hour our thoughts
are...
are with the Federal Chancellor. For many years he devoted himself to the Fatherland with the utmost exertion of human strength, without allowing himself any rest. After long consideration, he at last decided to take a short vacation this year. And now, on the journey to the place where he intended to spend his vacation, he lost his beloved wife. We are mourning a really kind woman, who was at her best at the side of her husband to alleviate the distress of the poor, to help poor children and to comfort those in sorrow. While we deeply mourn the tragic end of this exemplary woman, wife and mother, we are deeply grateful to Providence that the Chancellor himself was preserved to us. Millions of Austrians sympathize sincerely in his grief.

Our honored Federal Chancellor, who was struck by such a terrible disaster, instructed me from Linz to express his most heartfelt and cordial appreciation to the people of Austria for the countless proofs of sympathy which he received during the last few hours. I herewith deeply with this order.

My former report can be supplemented only by details. The Chancellor and his wife were seated in the back of the car. The front seats were occupied by the Chancellor's son and the governess. A detective was sitting at the side of the driver. The car suddenly went off the road to the left, turned with its left front wheel into a shallow ditch and hit a tree on the road with all its force. The collision was so violent that the tree became wedged in the debris of the front part of the car.

The Chancellor and his wife were thrown out of the half-open roof, from Schonsaigl fell as unfortunately that her spinal column was broken and she died immediately. The Federal Chancellor, who fell to the ground head first, only slightly injured his shoulder. The place where the Chancellor struck the ground with his head is only 20 cm. from a sharp corner-stone. Thus the catastrophe could easily have assumed still larger proportions. The Chancellor's son was slightly wounded in the face by splinters of the side-shield.

The governess sitting at his side had the presence of mind to hold her arm protectingly before the face of the child in the last moment. In this way the child was preserved from worse injuries. The governess was not hurt.

I reported in the afternoon with regard to the cause of the disaster that either the driver had suddenly felt ill or that the car had developed a defect. The investigations point towards the second possibility. The driver...
driver of the car states that he did not feel ill. It is
to be assumed with the greatest probability that a defect
had developed in the steering gear. The demolished car
will be brought to Vienna and will be examined by experts
in the "Versuchsstation" (experimental station) of the
police.

The Chancellor, who was taken together with his son
to the "Spital der Herzbersigen Brudor" in Linz by the
adjutants and was there informed of the death of his wife,
proceeded to Absberg accompanied by Governor Mr. Gleisner
and Director of Security Reverteras, where he prayed at the
coffin of his wife and assisted at the consecration of
the body........