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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, July 29, 1933.

SUBJECT: Transmittting clippings covering two articles which appeared in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 10 and July 27, covering statements of Lord Rothermere and of Lord Parmoor, on the German situation.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

Consulate General

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a clipping from the "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 10, 1933, with respect to an article which Lord Rothermere is said to have published in the "Daily Mail" in London after his return from a trip to Germany. It is quite possible that the article in question has already been brought to the attention of the Department through the Embassy or the Consulate General in London, but I am transmitting it herewith to indicate the space which was given to it in the Berlin newspapers. The Berlin and German newspapers are very quick to give very full and complete publicity to any article which appears in the foreign press which can in any way be construed as favorable to Germany. I am unable to make a translation of the complete article due to the

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pressure of work, but it is sufficient I think to state that to an objective observer here who is really familiar with what has passed in Germany, an article such as that of Lord Rothermere is incomprehensible. The following are some of the statements which, according to the "Berliner Tageblatt", were made by Lord Rothermere:

" Of all historic changes in our time this upset of Germany under Hitler has been the quickest and the most complete and significant. The German people are filled with the courage of a crusade. Something more significant than the beginning of a new regime has taken place. The youth have taken possession of the situation in Germany and have taken away the mastery from the old ones who had completely failed. - - - - With respect to the atrocity propaganda Lord Rothermere is said to have referred to the similar events which took place under the Italian Fascism in 1921 and 1922, but that to-day after ten years Italy is a peaceful and a progressive country, and the unlawful acts which took place in the early times of Fascism, have been forgotten. In the same way unlawful acts of individual Nazis will be overshadowed by the extraordinary good which the new regime is already bringing to Germany. Through the mobilization of the youth which has been brought to support energetic national policy, an oppressed and embittered nation has been changed into one full of hope and optimism. The first effect has been an evident bettering of German business. In England it is the widespread opinion that the Nazis are sinister young rowdies who govern with terror a repressed population. This is a direct turning around of the facts. Lord Rothermere is quoted as saying: "I am convinced from what I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears, that the sympathy of the great majority of the German people is with this organization of brave young men." It would be fruitless and unfair to regret this rebirth of the German spirit. Every nation has the right to make out of its own sources the best possible, and so it is Germany's good fortune that it has found a leader who can bring together all the youthful elements in the country. "

I am unable to determine how long Lord Rothermere was in Germany and which sections he visited, but if he actually published in the "Daily Mail" the sentiments attributed to him by the "Berliner Tageblatt", he must have seen very little and heard very little from the worth-while elements in the country. Anyone who is familiar with the lawless acts of the young people of the Hitler movement, particularly of the S.A. and the student body in the universities, could not agree with the above mentioned statements, and I may say that from my own conversations with leaders of the Government and of the party they do not have such a high opinion of the acts which have been committed by their adherents. On the other hand, they are quick to make excuses for them and to express regret over many of the things which have happened.

In the "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 27 there appeared the appended article covering a letter which Lord Parmoor is said to have written to the "Times". This letter is much more tempered and much more reasonable and was undoubtedly written to support the activities of Mr. Henderson in the disarmament problem. When, however, Lord Parmoor speaks of the present Government in Germany having attacked the problem of unemployment in an energetic manner and leaves the impression that real steps have been made in this direction, he must be unaware of the real facts. In spite of the newspaper accounts to the contrary, those who are really familiar with the situation know

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that unemployment has not decreased in Germany and that the recognition of the present Government that it had failed to make any progress in this direction is one of its greatest cares. When Lord Parmoor says in his letter that wherever he was in Germany he found the situation quiet and normal it is quite clear that he was judging from the surface only and was not familiar with various difficulties which have arisen in the last weeks all over Germany which have been the cause of great preoccupation to the authorities. To the casual visitor, Berlin and other German cities seem very quiet and normal, but it is only to those who are in the country and who know what is really taking place that the real situation is known. Further, when Lord Parmoor says in his article that it is clear to see that the German people wish only peace, he may be quite correct in that the great mass of the German people may sincerely desire peace. When, however, one speaks of Germany in this respect one must think of it in terms of the Government which has fastened itself fully and completely on the country, and the Government to those ^{who} know the real opinions and ideas of its leaders, is not wedded to peace. As has been pointed out in previous despatches, it desires peace for the moment in order to consolidate its position, but its basic attitude is not peaceful, and this should be obvious to anyone who sees the ways in which the very young and youth of Germany are being trained continuously in military exercises and stimulated to

a military spirit.

I can only see these two articles as having been published ~~for~~ some reason which is not apparent. At least I am not at this moment able to form any opinion as to what the real cause of their publication is. I may say, however, that if these articles express the honest and real opinion of Lord Rothermere and Lord Parmoor, they show that they are not familiar with the real situation in Germany.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
Two newspaper clippings.

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