

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

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A friend of mine who is very close to high personages in the Government and who, besides, is highly informed in the banking and business world, informed me that there is no confidence in the so-called Four Year Plan. In fact, there is no plan. It will not be possible to state in six months that progress has been made and the plan has been carried out to that extent. The whole plan was contained in the words of Hitler in his recent speech when the plan was announced, namely to endeavor, in four years' time, to make Germany free as far as possible from dependence on foreign countries for raw materials. However, since the recent pronouncements of Hitler and the naming of Goering as administrator of the Four Year Plan the following tendencies are now quite clear:

1. Hitler as the sovereign personality of the State;
2. Goering as State administrator, i.e. a kind of Chancellor;
3. Hess as leader of the Party.

These three tendencies are now clear in German internal politics.

The radicals headed by Hess consist of those leaders who were sufficiently vociferous with Roehm before 1934 in preaching the second revolution, but who when the matter came to a climax jumped to cover and escaped the purge. They are, however, still banded together as the radical political leaders who are bent upon socialistic methods, the aims of socialization the whole program of which is so unclear and so experimental and so contrary to the economic interests of Germany that their success can mean nothing more than the bolshevization of the country. It is now clear to many leaders of industry in Germany that this faction is not constructive and that their policies will continue to be creating disturbances among those who are dedicated to alleviating the German situation and bringing Germany more in line with respect to economic and foreign policy with the rest of the world.

Regarding Goering it must be remembered that he holds no position in the Party. He is not a high party man or party leader. His sole connection with the movement apart from this personal association with Hitler is his connection with the S.A. in which he occupies merely the position of "Gruppenfuhrer" (group leader). Among the masses Goering is popular as

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compared to the others and probably is the most popular man connected with the Nazi movement after Hitler. He is distinctly opposed by the radical elements. He approves of the moderate policies of Schacht and opposes extreme socializing methods.

Goering's position is clearly indicated with regard to the difficulties he had in announcing his part in the Four Year Plan. After he was commissioned by Hitler he decided to give a public address in the Sport Palace which was done though Goebbels assisted and even decorated ^{him} on the occasion. The decoration was meant to humiliate Goering and to work ^{on} his weakness and public reputation for decorations and uniforms. There was a disagreement between Goering and Goebbels on this matter as Goebbels did not want Goering to hold forth in a public meeting and as Gauleiter of Berlin did his best to make difficulties. They came to an impasse and Goering informed Goebbels that unless the matter were satisfactorily arranged he would hold his meeting the same night as Goebbels' birthday thereby detracting from the celebration Goebbels was to have commemorating his 10th anniversary as Gauleiter of Berlin.

Goering has had great difficulties in carrying through his program. The various decrees which it was necessary to publish being Reich Decrees have to be submitted to Hess as representative of the Chancellor for his signature and it was Goering's purpose during the Sport Palace speech to announce the important law known as "Einsatz der Arbeit" which Hess refused to sign. It was apparent to Goering that he had to find another way to get on with his program and promulgated his decrees in connection with the Four Year Plan than to expect any cooperation from Hess. Therefore something new has been invented. Goering now publishes "Anordnungen" in his capacity as "Minister President, Generaloberst, Beauftragter des Fuehrers fuer den 4 Jahr Plan". These Anordnungen are not now promulgated as Reich decrees, but as Anordnungen entirely within Goering's own competence and legally not requiring the signature of Hess. The Anordnungen with regard to the "Einsatz der Arbeit" are now published in the "Reichs-Anzeiger" and not in the Reichsgesetzblatt. There was considerable hocus pocus with regard to the publishing of these Anordnungen. They were sent out by Goering to the provincial press and immediately forbidden by Goebbels in the Berlin press. Goering counteracted this and yesterday the Anordnungen were fully published in the "Berliner Tageblatt". It is clear from these manoeuvres and manipulations that Goering will have no cooperation from Hess and his followers, namely Goebbels, Darre, Keppler, etc. and that the work of the Four Year Plan will meet many serious obstacles from Hess and his crowd. They are continuing their disturbances and utilizing their high positions to secure political conditions and advantages for themselves, and my informant is of the opinion that the oppositions indicated above will develop rather rapidly during the coming winter.