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July 26, 1938.

Summary of Report No. 295 from the American Consul General, Stuttgart to American Ambassador, Berlin, June 24, 1938.

Subject: The Annual Meeting of the German Foreign Institute at Stuttgart.

The Board of Trustees and Directors of the German Foreign Institute at Stuttgart held its annual meeting between the fourteenth and seventeenth of June, 1938. The meeting was attended by prominent Germans, including representatives of the Army and the various Reich ministries, and from Austria came Governor Seyss-Inquart among others.

Dr. Seyss-Inquart spoke on June 16 and emphasized the indissoluble ties that bind the different sections of the German nation within and without the borders of the Reich, and he referred particularly to the German minorities in the Danubian countries.

The main note struck at this year's meetings of the various committees was in connection with the German minorities in Southeastern Europe, especially those living in Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary. The thought underlying the speeches was that in the future the Danube will form a link between the Third Reich and these minorities, and that henceforth these elements are to be regarded as outposts

outposts of German influence in Eastern Europe.

Dr. Stroelin, Mayor of Stuttgart and President of the Board of Directors of the German Foreign Institute, stoutly defended the activities of this institution and said that the foreign press had frequently contained statements casting suspicion on the purposes of the Institute, and added that considerable confusion is being created in foreign countries by the propagation of the idea that the German Foreign Institute is a section of the Foreign Organization of the National Socialist Party, the seat of which is in Berlin. In this connection he asserted that the Foreign Organization was exclusively restricted to activities among German nationals living abroad, that is, among persons who owe allegiance to Germany in a legal sense, and that the Institute is actually an institution which is devoted solely to the cultural interests of Germans living in foreign countries and of persons of German descent irrespective of their citizenship. He declared further that the Institute gives strong emphasis to its work among twenty million persons of German descent or German minorities in foreign countries who are not nationals of the Reich, asserting that these activities are entirely lacking in political character and are solely of a cultural nature.

(Summarizer's

(Summarizer's note. This assertion would certainly appear to be most difficult of proof.)

During one of the committee meetings on June 15, Herr Kloss, a member of the staff of the Foreign Institute, delivered a lecture on "Amerika-Deutschtum" (Germanism in America). He said that work in this connection in the United States must take into consideration two types of Germans living there, namely, persons who confess to be Germans, and people who have divested themselves of Germanism, and he explained that the German Foreign Institute and the organizations cooperating with it in the United States must intensify their efforts to the establishment of centers for the cultivation of German community life as delineated by National Socialist conceptions of the community of all Germans on the basis of racialism. He said that German-American relationships must be intensified in all aspects, and in order to give strong initiation to this movement it will be necessary to employ propaganda on an entirely personal basis, and that it would not be possible to achieve this aim unless the work in this connection is centralized under a powerful organization having a properly trained and loyal staff.

Among the twenty persons honored by the Institute  
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in conferring on them the silver shield in recognition of their self-denying activities in the conservation of Germanism abroad, the name of Mr. Frederick Franklin Schraeder appeared. Mr. Honaker states that Mr. Schraeder is reputed to be a native-born citizen of the United States and a journalist and dramatist whose address is 452 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

The situation with respect to Germans in South America was discussed by Dr. Hunsche, a Brazilian of German birth who is now reputed to be collaborating with the authorities in Berlin in matters pertaining to Latin America. His address this year dealt mainly with the folklore side of the German element in Latin America and he made no reference to the conflicts now obtaining between Germans living there and the various governments, an omission which may have been attributable to official quarters. However, Dr. Hunsche insisted that it will be necessary to use propaganda in its finest forms in order to maintain and stimulate the interest of Germans in Latin America in racial consciousness. He did not appear to be entirely optimistic as regards the possibilities of realizing the German community principle in Latin America, and impressed upon his audience the necessity of exercising every endeavor in this direction and suggested that before a definite plan

plan is put into operation it would be advisable to organize experimental stations in different countries which can be changed in accordance with developments and circumstances, and that if these centers should finally offer little promise of achieving their purpose a center might eventually be established in Germany.

The administration of the German Foreign Institute has recently been changed and the administrative control is now exercised by the Württemberg state government, the latter being represented on the Board of Trustees and Directors by Dr. Drueck who is a divisional chief in the Württemberg Ministry of Education.

Mr. Honaker states that it is reported that the German Foreign Institute now has a staff of 130 persons in Stuttgart and that the Institute now consists of four main divisions as follows:

1. Research work
2. Intellectual and political training
3. Consanguinity propaganda
4. Propaganda in connection with Germanism

Propaganda in connection with Germanism apparently implies "fostering the nationhood" in Germans living among foreign peoples. In addition to this, far-reaching plans are evidently contemplated in connection with consanguinity propaganda which deals with the reestablishment of family relationships. The ultimate result of this action is

expected

expected to be that every German and every person of German descent will belong to one and the same family, and in the meantime the guiding principles of the Institute will be that every person of German extraction is to be regarded as German until he expressly renounces Germanism; and it is hoped by the Institute that through this "consanguinity drive" the political, economic, and cultural influence of Greater Germany will be enormously enhanced.

One of the principal officers of the Institute explained at one of the meetings that the consanguinity section of the Institute will act as a sort of attorney general in supervising the maintenance of the register in each German community of every German who has emigrated as well as of his whereabouts, descendants, relationships, business, and so forth. Another speaker stated that the guiding principle must be "where there is one German family there exists the German nation".

The ideas and trends above described doubtless appear strange or even reaching beyond the power of any nation under friendly international relationships; but these conceptions now occupy an important place in the ideologies agitating German minds, and they also promise to become increasingly important factors in public undertakings, and  
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and in the words of another speaker, the "consanguinity drive" is now regarded as one of the most important means of building up a self-conscious nation.

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