

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, March 24, 1938.

Personal and Confidential.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I was very much disturbed yesterday to have a member of the Austrian Legation whom I have known a number of years come to me in great excitement and depression and beg me to give him a passport so he could leave the country, saying it was only a question of time when he will be arrested. He said that the archives in Vienna will compromise him in connection with his official duties for the old Austrian regime. It appears that Tauschitz has saved himself. Evidently he has had a foot a long time in the Nazi camp. He is now riding around Berlin with a swastika on his car, gives the Nazi salute and says Heil Hitler like the staunchest member of the party. I was very sorry of course not to be able to do anything for my friend and colleague, but explained to him that the American Government did not permit the issuance of passports except to American citizens. He then begged me to assist him to reach an American boat and smuggle himself out of the country. I told him this also was hopeless as a stowaway would always be repatriated to the country from which he departed. I told him I could help him in no legal way as much as I should be ready to make any personal sacrifices to assist him in his grave predicament. I offered finally to give him a personal and unofficial letter to Hauptmann Wiedemann, Hitler's adjutant, who has called upon me a number of times for official

assistance

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

969

assistance and with whom I have good personal relations. The young man, however, thought it would be exceedingly dangerous for him to follow any course which would prevent his escape, and I imagine today he is endeavoring to get over the German border without a pass. Other members of the Legation have been arrested. The Consul General in Munich, Mr. Jordan, has been arrested after he destroyed the confidential archives and the secret codes, which he did on the instructions of his Government just before the Germans marched into Austria. Mr. Hathaway is dean of the consular corps in Munich and has been very much upset. He has appealed to the Ambassador to make representations on behalf of Jordan, but unfortunately it is not possible for the Ambassador to mix up in an internal affair here and I believe he is doing nothing. I was consulted and it was my opinion that our Ambassador in Berlin could not properly take any steps on behalf of a foreign Consul arrested in Munich. I merely wanted to give you this information as it indicates how tragic the situation is.

Faithfully yours,

Raymond Lister