

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, August 9, 1933.

MEMORANDUM ON CONVERSATION WITH STAATSSSEKRETAER
DR. PFUNDTNER, IN THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE REICH, ON THE ZUCKERMAN CASE.

I called by appointment at 11 a.m. this morning on Staatssekretær Dr. Pfundtner, with regard to the Zuckerman case which I had previously discussed with him on July 21. I informed him that I came to him as the police of the Reich are under the jurisdiction of his Ministry. I said that we had had no word from the police in Leipzig for two weeks as to progress and that I was convinced that the police were not really making an endeavor to find the attackers of Mr. Zuckerman. The Referent in the case was called in by Dr. Pfundtner, and he read a long report which has been made by the Police President of Leipzig, in which attention is called to the fact that there were so many S.A. men in Leipzig that day (140,000) that it has been impossible to determine who the attackers of Zuckerman were. The report also spoke of the probability that Mr. Zuckerman's attackers were Communists in S.A. uniform. I took the liberty of saying to Dr. Pfundtner that the report really meant nothing to me as he would readily appreciate; that it was merely the formal report of the police to indicate that they either could or would not do anything. I said that in my opinion the only way to get at it was by his getting in touch with the S.A. leader in Saxony, or with Roehm himself as the head of the S.A., and convince him that the attackers would have to be found. I said that the police would not find them unless they knew that the S.A. wished them to be found, and cooperated.

Dr. Pfundtner, while he did not openly agree with all that I said, indicated that he was in reality in full agreement with what I said. I again emphasized the importance of the matter from the point of view of relations and said that Mr. Zuckerman was so badly injured that I doubted whether he would ever entirely recover. I also called attention to the fact that Mrs. Zuckerman had been operated on as a result of her injuries as it was necessary to take away her baby. I said the story was one of the very worst and that it was in their interest to show all energy. To all this he agreed. He said that he had already given such energetic orders throughout the whole of Germany that he was hopeful that further attacks would be avoided. He said that he would immediately get in touch with the S.A. leader in Saxony, and if I thought it advisable and helpful for me to talk with him to impress on him the international aspects, he would put us in contact. I said I would be willing to do this, for I felt it

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was necessary for the S.A. leaders to realize what effect their actions had outside the country and that anything I could do to help the authorities to impress this on the S.A. leaders, I was willing to do.

There is no question as to Staatssekretar Dr. Pfundtner's desire that the men shall be apprehended and punished. It is just a question of how to get them arrested. We agreed that it could only be done through the cooperation of the Saxon police and the Saxon S.A. leaders. He is going to take up the matter in this sense and is going to keep me advised.

I told him that Mr. Zuckerman's injuries were so serious that I was almost sure he would claim for damages. I further said that as an American citizen he might ask us to support his claim, in fact to make his claim for damages as there was so little chance of his getting a hearing in a German court. I emphasized that this aspect of the case must not be left out of consideration and that it only made more evident the need of the most energetic action of the German authorities.

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.