

MEMORANDUM

of conversation with Staatssekretar Dr.
Grauert in the Prussian Ministry of the
Interior.

Prepared by
Consul Raymond H. Geist.

I called on Dr. Grauert in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior at 5:30 on August 17, 1933. I left with Dr. Grauert immediately a copy of the Affidavit prepared by Dr. Daniel Mulvihill who had been attacked on the night of August 15th on the Unter den Linden by an S.A. man because he failed to raise his hand to give the Hitler salute while the parade was marching by. I told Dr. Grauert at once briefly the circumstances of the case. I emphasized the fine character and the profession of the gentleman who was attacked. I explained the circumstances which brought him to Germany, and that his situation was not different than that of hundreds of others, and that the attack to which he was subjected might befall any American citizen in this country at any time, whether that citizen was here as a resident, as a student, or as a tourist. I said that the Consulate General as well as the Embassy had the greatest concern for the safety of American citizens, as American citizens might be attacked in a similar way, unless energetic measures were taken at once to make it clear not only to the S.A. men, but to all other semi political military organizations and the public as well that foreigners in this country were not expected to give the Hitler salute. I emphasized the self-evident fact that Germany is a great tourist country and that in the normal course of events a steady stream of tourists, among which would be many Americans, would continually come into Germany. Dr. Grauert listened to these statements and said that he was absolutely in agreement with everything I stated and realized that it was necessary to make these facts clear not only to the political military formations, but as well to the public.

I added that my visit to his office was made in full agreement with the American Ambassador, the American Consul General, and the Counsellor at the American Embassy. I said that we had the greatest concern for the safety of Americans in view of this incident which we had anticipated, and we expected that immediate action would be taken. I said concretely that we considered it necessary for the German authorities at once to make known to all members of political military organizations that Americans are not expected to give the Hitler salute under any

circumstances.

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circumstances. Dr. Grauert said he would immediately take the matter up with the Reich officials, as he considered that the measures to be taken should extend farther than Prussia. He stated he would at once summon Gruppenführer Ernst and demand his immediate cooperation not only in arresting the S.A. man who made the attack, but in making it absolutely imperative upon every member of his organization to recognize through the strictest discipline that foreigners are not expected on any occasion to give the Hitler salute. He said he would also immediately get in touch with the Chief of the Secret Police with a view to apprehending and punishing immediately the man who had made the attack on Dr. Mulvihill.

I said that as regrettable as this incident is, and as important it may be to apprehend and punish at once the man who made the attack, it was far more important to take action immediately throughout the Reich to assure that the semi political military organizations as well as the public understood the position of foreigners in this country with regard to the Hitler salute. Dr. Grauert said that he would bring this matter immediately to the attention of the Minister President of Prussia and also to the appropriate officials of the Reich with a view to having these facts regarding foreigners and the Hitler salute made known in order to avoid a repetition of this attack. He said that the Hitler salute was not obligatory upon the public; that it had been introduced among officials in all the Departments of the Reich, States and Municipalities. He expressed the presumption that this attack was not made by an S.A. man, but probably by a member of one of the N.S.B.O. groups which were having a parade. I said that this was possible, and therefore it made a general clarification of the position of foreigners in this respect much more essential, because a decree simply promulgated through the S.A. and S.S. formations might not reach other organizations who engage in political demonstrations.

Dr. Grauert was most sympathetic and desired that I assure both the Ambassador and the Consul General that he will take the necessary steps through the highest authorities to accomplish what seems essential in the interest of foreigners in this country.

Berlin, August 18, 1933.

Raymond H. Geist,
American Consul.