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NO. 1616

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
Berlin, Germany, September 26, 1933.

Shaw

SUBJECT: Transmitting news bulletin issued by the
"Japanischer Verein in Deutschland".

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a news bulletin, No. 273, issued on September 13 by the "Japanischer Verein in Deutschland" (Japanese Club in Germany), which has its headquarters at Motzstrasse 31, Berlin. This bulletin was brought to my attention by a friendly German contact who has, through a friend, intimate touch with the Japanese Embassy in this city. My German contact brought to my attention recently as of interest, the fact that various members of the staff of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin have recently been quite open in unfriendly and in exceedingly critical comment with regard to the United States. According to the information I have, various members of the Japanese Embassy, in speaking to German friends have, during the last month, been particularly free in making practically hostile comment with respect to the United States. My German contact, who is a person

particularly

particularly well placed, informs me that he believes that the Japanese officials here have been freer in this respect more recently, for, as they say, "Germany is now as much disliked in the United States as Japan"; also, "Germany has now as few friends as Japan". In connection with the foregoing my German contact also brought to my attention the bulletin of the Japanese Club in Germany, the original of which is transmitted with the original of this despatch. I have had a translation made of this bulletin which is being transmitted with the original of this despatch only. It is believed that the section of this bulletin entitled: "Japan's Naval Armaments and its Fleet" may be of interest to the Department as indicating the type of publicity which is being put out through Japanese organizations in foreign countries. The Japanese Club in Germany is, I understand, merely a convenient propaganda organization which has been set up, through which the Japanese Embassy in Berlin can issue material to the press.

It is also of interest in this connection to say that I am informed by my contact that the Commercial Attache at the Japanese Embassy has just been recalled to Japan. A member of the Embassy staff was so delighted over the news of the recall that he called up my friend very late in the evening immediately after the telegram had been decoded. It seems that the mother of the Commercial Attache was German and had married a member of one of the leading business families in Japan.

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He has been persona non grata with the other members of the staff at the Japanese Embassy here, as because of his German mother he is considered to be influenced too much by foreign points of view.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:

With original of despatch only:
Bulletin of "Japanischer Verein in
Deutschland";
Translation thereof.

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GSM:P

