

370
NO. 1537

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
Berlin, Germany, August 24, 1933.

SUBJECT: Further developments in the anti-Semitic
movement in Germany.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the series of despatches which I have addressed to the Department with respect to the anti-Semitic movement in Germany, particularly to my confidential despatches No. 1330 of May 23 and 1369 of June 17, in which I gave in resume form important developments in this situation. I now have to transmit a resume of further developments showing that the movement continues in an implacable and always more definite form. Briefly it may be said that the situation of the Jews in every respect except that of personal safety, is constantly growing more difficult and that the restrictions in effect are becoming daily more effective in practice and that new restrictions are constantly appearing.

Following the restrictions on physicians with which the Department is already familiar, the newspapers of July 29 now carry an order of the Minister of Labor, that the same prescriptions are to apply to the admission

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of dentists as have already applied to physicians. In other words, in the future the admission of non-Aryans to the practice of dentistry is practically impossible and non-Aryan dentists will no longer be able to take care of patients under the social insurance system.

The "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 31 carries an item that the newly created "German fashion office" in the fashion show which is to be held in August, will not permit any non-Aryan dressmaking firm to participate.

According to an article in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of August 23, the Prussian Ministry of the Interior has given out an explanatory order with reference to the admission of new members to the police force in Prussia. According to this order no one is to be admitted to the police in the future who is not of Aryan origin or who does not have an Aryan appearance.

The same newspaper of August 23 carries an item to the effect that the Staatskommissar, Dr. Klein, has issued an order that the admission of Jews to the bathing beach at Wannsee is forbidden and that a notice to that effect is to be displayed at the entrance to this bathing beach. That this order is in effect has already been brought to our attention. This particular bathing beach at Wannsee was constructed for the working classes of Berlin and is in many ways a model institution and is patronized by thousands of bathers during the summer season.

According to an item in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of August 22, Professor Max Goldschmidt, one of the leading

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members of the law faculty of the University of Leipzig, has been definitely removed from the faculty on account of his Jewish origin. Professor Goldschmidt is one of the university professors who was left undisturbed because of his extraordinary ability and reputation, and with his going there is left only a handful of professors in the German universities of non-Aryan origin. His going foreshadows the separation of those few who are still left on the various faculties.

In a previous despatch I have brought to the attention of the Department the extraordinarily unprofessional action which the Aryan physicians in Germany are taking against their non-Aryan colleagues. In the issue of August 5, 1933 of the "Berliner Aerzte-Correspondenz", No. 31, which is the leading publication of the physicians in Berlin, there appears a notice to the effect that on August 22, 1933 there will be a meeting of all the physicians in Berlin at which addresses will be made on "The position of the physician in the Third Reich". The notice states:

"The appearance of all German physicians in Berlin at this meeting is expected. Dentists, veterinaries and apothecaries are also welcome as guests. The admission of Jews is forbidden".

The extreme limits to which the anti-Semitic movement is going is indicated by an article in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of August 13, to the effect that in Nassau an order has been issued that the local organizations of craftsmen will determine for themselves whether or not Jews shall be members; but that under no circumstances

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may a Jewish member be permitted to hold any office in the organization. This means that every local plumbers' organization can determine for itself whether a Jewish plumber shall be permitted to be a member. In view of the present temper of the country it is evident that only a very few, if any, of these organizations of craftsmen will permit Jews to be members. This order affecting even plumbers, carpenters and other handworkers, indicates how implacable and how general the movement against the Jews in reality is.

That this general movement against the Jews has the approval of the highest authorities is evident from a speech which the Minister of Culture of Prussia, Dr. Rust, made at Horderney towards the end of July. Horderney is a section of Germany where the population has not been as antagonistic towards the Jews as the local Party leaders desire. Therefore, when Minister Rust was there, in order to be given the honorary citizenship of the city he said:

"My fellow German citizens! You have made me an honorary citizen of Horderney; but this is not enough for me, for I must also demand that Horderney must decide itself either in favor of the Jews or in favor of the banner of Adolf Hitler. Shall the Jew control in Horderney, or shall this most beautiful North Sea Island again become a place where a German may feel himself at home?"

As Horderney is one of the favored recreation places of Germany, there could be only one impression to be gained by the inhabitants of the island and that is, that this resort is to be definitely closed to Jews.

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240

- 5 -

The new citizenship law which is being considered by the Government and which has for its principal object the practical disfranchisement of the Jews in Germany, has not yet appeared. It has been under consideration more or less actively for the last nine weeks. The agreement which it has been possible to reach so far has been only on most drastic lines. The moderate elements have not been able to make any headway so far as the proposed draft of the law is concerned. The radical anti-Semitic elements, however, who are behind this law and whose minds are made up as to the policy to be followed, have refrained from issuing it up to this moment largely, I am told, because of the unfavorable public sentiment it would arouse abroad. The Jews in Germany look upon this proposed law as the most serious moral blow which could be delivered to them. They have and are being deprived of practically all means of making a livelihood and understand that the new citizenship law is to practically deprive them of all civil rights. The fact that the law has been under consideration for such a long time may be an indication that in its final form it will be less radical than that still contemplated.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

800

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