

IN REPLY REFER TO RHG:JT

FILE NO.

1239



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany,

May 10, 1939.

Personal & Confidential



Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I thought it might interest you to have an example of a very peculiar case here,- the first time in my experience I am able to illustrate a protection case, and a rather strange protection case at that. As you know, at times I am asked to use my "unofficial good offices" in behalf of unfortunates. As you realize, I have known the Kreislers for many years, and Mrs. Kreisler being an American citizen it was rather normal that I should endeavor to help them if possible.

In his dealings with the German Government during the past years Fritz Kreisler swore that he was half Jew, and being married to a Christian wife and not having identified himself in any way with Judaism, he was catalogued here as "Mischling" first degree.

He apparently was denounced, and the Propaganda Ministry sent experts to Vienna to look up his record who found, according to original documents, that his four grand-parents were Jewish. Immediately they sequestered his property and indicated that they would indict him for violation of the Nürnberg Laws (having young Christian servants in his house; and in connection with property, having executed legal documents to the effect that he was non-Jewish). His lawyer told me that he could be indicted on about seven counts.

Every

*Handwritten:* Jewish, Raymond N.

*Handwritten:* PM, Mr. Moffat, Mr. Block, 12, H-2, FA, Am

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Every kind of action was immediately taken against him, and Mrs. Kreisler was in a terrible state of nerves bordering on a breakdown.

I knew their lawyer very well, and he made an application to Hitler to have the findings in Vienna quashed and Fritz Kreisler allowed to maintain the status of "Mischling" first degree. It was agreed that I should take the matter up with Meissner, and, if possible, with Goebbels.

The enclosed picture shows me at the Hitler dinner urging Meissner to push the thing through with the Chancellor. A few minutes later I saw Goebbels and discussed the matter with him, and urged also his approval of the plan.

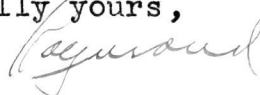
I am enclosing herewith, for your strictly confidential information, as a matter of interest to you, the approval which under date of April 21, 1939 was signed by Meissner.

The Kreislers are still abroad but I expect that Fritz will now be able to return to Germany to spend part of the summer as he usually does, at their home in Grünewald.

The case is so unique that I thought you would like to have this and show it to Mrs. Messersmith.

With warmest regards to you both,

Faithfully yours,



Raymond H. Geist,  
American Consul.

Enclosures:

- 1) Clipping of March 3, 1939.
- 2) Copy of letter from Dr. Meissner, April 21, 1939.

George S. Messersmith, Esquire,  
Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.