

Vienna, November 5, 1935.

No. 592

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTED TRANSLATIONS OF ARTICLES FROM
THE VIENNA PRESS WITH REFERENCE TO FURTHER
ANTI-JEWISH MEASURES IN GERMANY.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that the continued and steady pressure against the Jews in Germany, which has for its officially proclaimed objective their exclusion from all aspects of German business and German cultural and national life, is arousing very considerable attention in Austria. More recent acts of the German Government and of the

Party

Party organs against the Jews have gone very far towards solidifying sentiment in Austria against any rapprochement with Germany as long as the present National Socialist Government is in power.

The Department is aware that the German Minister in Vienna, Herr von Papen, is making very earnest and continued efforts to negotiate an agreement between Germany and Austria which would bring about a rapprochement between the two countries. The recent increased pressure against the Jews in Germany has, I am reliably informed, in his opinion so strengthened the sentiment against rapprochement in Austria that for the present he can anticipate no success in such negotiations.

I have already reported that several months ago as a result of violent attacks against the Austrian Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor in a part of the German press an agreement was reached between the German and Austrian Governments with respect to press comment. It was agreed by both Governments that it was undesirable in the interests of both countries that a press campaign should be carried on in either against the other. As a result of this agreement, which was carefully adhered to by the Austrian press, there was for some weeks an almost complete absence in the Austrian papers of even the most thoroughly authenticated news which might tend to place the present German Government and the National Socialist Party in an unfavorable light. The German press for a time also refrained from publishing exaggerated and inaccurate information concerning developments in Austria.

Within

Within the last weeks, however, the Austrian Government has become convinced that the German press is not observing the spirit of this agreement and as a consequence the Austrian newspapers again carry more complete news concerning developments in Germany. It may be observed, however, that the comment in even the boulevard press in Vienna is much more restrained and practically all the news published in Austria with regard to Germany is objective and correct.

The Department is aware from the previous reports of this Legation that there is in Austria a considerable anti-Jewish movement which the Government is restraining and controlling. Although this movement exists in Austria, there is even in anti-semitic circles in the country an almost complete absence of sympathy with the violent anti-Jewish movement in Germany. For this reason it is particularly interesting that the Austrian press, without exception, is reporting quite completely on the increased pressure against the Jews in Germany, and this is having its corresponding effect on public opinion in Austria.

1/2 As typical of this comment, there are transmitted herewith translations of two articles which appeared in the NEUES WIENER TAGBLATT, of October 22, and DAS BUCH, of October 21, in Vienna. (Enclosures 1 and 2), with respect to the very definite measures which are being taken to exclude Jews from participation in the business life of Germany. The Department's particular attention is drawn to the enclosed translation of the article from the NEUES WIENER TAGBLATT as it appears to be a very correct and objective statement of developments in the determined effort now being made to force Jews out of all business enterprises.

The steps

The steps which are being taken in Germany to force the sale of large and small business concerns owned by Jews at ridiculous prices are being particularly commented on in the Austrian press. The NEUE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG of November 5, carries a telegram from its Berlin correspondent stating that Dr. Scheidt has written a letter to the German Chamber of Commerce in which appears the following: "The Nuremberg law and the decrees which are to grow out of it will undoubtedly bring about certain readjustments affecting the position of Jews in the commercial life of the country. So long, however, as these decrees have not been issued all subordinate organs of the Government must cease taking any steps against Jewish business houses. I therefore ask all the groups in German commercial life to take note of this". The correspondent of the ZEITUNG in transmitting this item expressed the opinion, however, that this warning of Dr. Scheidt's will have little effect on the actual carrying through of the official and unofficial action against Jewish business houses and against individual Jews.

Public opinion in Austria was particularly disturbed and shocked by the order of the Propaganda Ministry in Berlin to the effect that the names of Jews who gave their lives during the last war while in the armed forces of Germany, were no longer to appear on memorial tablets. Even in those circles in Austria which have had a certain sympathy with the anti-Jewish movement in Germany, this order caused consternation. Irrespective of the difficulties existing between Austria and Germany today, there is a very common feeling in Austria that German and Austrian culture are identical. That such an order could be issued by a responsible German Ministry came as a rude shock to certain

circles

circles in Austria which, in spite of all that has happened, have been in favor of the negotiations which Herr von Papen is fostering. Austrian opinion probably found its most definite expression in the article written by Lieutenant-General Weihs-Fihawy and which was published in almost all of the Austrian papers. There is transmitted herewith a translation of the article as it appeared in the NEUES WIENER TAGBLATT of October 27, (Enclosure No.3). There is also transmitted as of interest in this connection a very interesting and direct editorial on this "fight against the dead", which appeared in the NEUES WIENER TAGBLATT of October 24, (Enclosure No.4).

Another recent declaration in Germany which has aroused considerable comment in Austria is the following paragraph from a speech made by a certain Becker, the district leader of the German Labor Front of Hesse-Nassau, at a meeting of the Hitler Youth and of the Labor Front in the Frankfurt Hippodrome: "National Socialism is not to be compared with any other Party group of previous days. This will be recognized only by those who will follow us. In later centuries when there will be a proper perspective and judgment of the things which are happening in Germany today, those who write of present day Germany will say - Christ was great, but Adolf Hitler was greater."

What appears to be well authenticated news is reaching Vienna that Austrian refugees in Germany who have been serving in the Austrian Legion in Germany are, under a new decree, being given German citizenship. As many of these refugees fled from Austria after committing bombing outrages and having committed political murders in Austria, this action has not tended to strengthen any desire for rapprochement.

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I have transmitted the foregoing information and the enclosures to this despatch as of possible interest to the Department. These serve as background for the statements which appear in other reports of this Legation to the effect that there is an increasing lack of interest in Austria in any rapprochement with Germany as long as the present National Socialist Government is in power there.

Respectfully yours,

George E. Messersmith.

Enclosures:

1. Translation of article from Tagblatt, Oct. 21/35
2. Translation of article from BSHO, October 21, 1935
3. Translation of article from TAGBLATT, Oct. 27/35
4. Translation of article from TAGBLATT, Oct. 24/35

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