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[TRANSLATION]

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Letter from the National Capital

By Diplomaticus

Washington. -- We are glad to hear that immediately after the statement of the "committee investigator" John C. Metcalfe, before the investigating committee the chairman of which is Representative Martin Dies, and which accordingly is called the "Dies Committee", became known, the Counselor of the German Embassy, Dr. Hans Thomsen characterized this statement (at least as far as it referred to the alleged dependence of the German diplomatic and consular representatives in the United States on the "Amerikadeutscher Bund") as false. And it is even more pleasing that the Ambassador, Dr. Hans Heinrich Dieckhoff, appeared in person at the Department of State shortly thereafter to discuss the matter and denied any connection between the Government of the Reich and the "Bund" very decisively, and strengthened this statement by delivering an "aide memoire". This shows clearly that the official German representatives as such wish to have nothing to do with the child's play of the Bund and its "little Führers".

This denial was well deserved, advisable and necessary.

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It has been made earlier and repeatedly in a milder form. The explanation which the Ambassador gave is plain enough. The official form, that of action before the Department of State, indicates that the Ambassador does not take the matter lightly. It is to be hoped that the Ambassador will take one more step. He ought to declare plainly to all officials subordinate to him that no one who performs his duty in other respects will have his career prejudiced in any way, will not be given any undesired transfers, and indeed will not even receive reprimands, even if persons without authority or alleged "party leaders" have something "to squeal about".

He ought before all to prohibit any assumption of influence by officials of the German Reich and "persons under its sovereignty" (that is, subordinates) on German-American organizations and in doing so should be sure of the full backing of the Berlin Government and the party officers.

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In the interested circles in Washington and New York, there is a full understanding of the difficult situation which the German Ambassador and the Consul General are in. It is known that both work with great rectitude, are well acquainted personally with the country and the people, and are striving tirelessly to bring about better relations. But it is also known

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that "the party" is getting more and more influence over foreign policy and that many strings run from the Bohle Office to the "new men" in the Foreign Office who came in with von Ribbentrop - in so far as action is not taken "independently".

Since neither the Ambassador nor the Consul General are "old party members", and in fact are outshone by many a subordinate official in "service to the party", one can very easily get a picture of the situation if he has any idea at all of the bustling activity in Berlin of certain organizations for work in foreign countries.

If the Government does not intend to boycott the untiring work of experienced men who have represented it abroad for years, and if it wishes to put an end finally to the tension that is tending toward an explosion, it must sternly halt the activities of these irresponsible party men who have already caused enough damage.

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There can be no doubt that the responsible old career officers are performing their duty conscientiously. We cannot imagine whence Metcalfe derived his information. There are in the life of all nations, we regret to say, so-called fellow creatures who wish to eliminate unpleasant competition by "squealing" and "informing". The years prior to 1933 give an

excellent

excellent example of that. Many who "scented a coming change" kept "squealing" constantly to persons higher up at that time, in order to curry favor. Before the upset, "personal files" were kept by the party on those officials and employees of whom it was known or suspected that their views were opposed to those of the party. Officials who belonged to the party at a time when it did not appear to them advisable to acknowledge their connection with it openly, did not make any secret of it after the upset that the party had obtained information of all alleged slights and injustices - and also of acts and remarks of their colleagues that might have been harmful to the party. And it is probably to be attributed to that, that these officials who had belonged to the party for a long time could give the names of their colleagues who "would shortly leave the service as politically undependable". The prophecies made at that time and in that way were fulfilled one hundred per cent. It should be understood, of course, that we are thinking in this connection only of those officials who were first transferred to the retired list "temporarily" and then "permanently", "in consequence of the fundamental change in political conditions".

A number of these measures were accelerated, and in many cases probably influenced fundamentally by "home reports" also, which were sent by "irresponsible elements" belonging to the

party

party to the "Foreign Countries Bureau of the N.S.D.A.P.", then at Hamburg, and to other party offices. Kurt Ladecke, at that time Washington correspondent of the "Völkischer Beobachter", frequently boasted that he had "recommended to the party" the dismissal or replacement of officials. When he, after getting too much on the nerves of his former friends, was able to think back over the advisability of all his "measures" in a concentration camp, his wife attempted to secure his liberation by referring to such "measures" in a very humble letter to the Führer .

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Many of the steps mentioned above were also taken at a time when the officials still felt themselves protected by Article 130 of the Reich Constitution, which reads:

"Officials are servants of the whole nation, not of a party. All officials are guaranteed freedom of political opinion and freedom of association".

But after the party was firmly seated in the saddle, after ruthless pushing through of the laws applying to career officials, which have been broken so often and so fundamentally since then, to an extent hardly ever equalled in the history of the foreign service of all nations, the criticism of officials in foreign countries by people "who felt themselves

specially

especially competent to do so" did not cease. Matters went so far that high officials of the foreign service (and those in the capital of the United States are no exception in this regard) had to use those languages for personal conversations which they knew were not understood by their subordinates. Speeches and remarks were critically "reported to the party"; no one trusted another; each one sought to outdo the other in protestations of loyalty.

These "home reports" ceased or at least decreased when the party (exactly as on the German ships) established its own "confidential cells" within the ranks of the officials or employees. The above designation is not the exact wording, but is close enough to the meaning.

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Despite all these allegations and "home reports", one thing is certain: the "Bund" (at least the organization that bears that name) does not have the slightest influence on transfers and the like, as far as the officers of the Foreign Service are concerned. But some of these "little Führers" cannot leave things alone. They must "have something to jaw about"; they pride themselves on their alleged influence; they babble that they "have given it to this or that Consul"; they bluster and

finally

finally believe themselves in their alleged successes. It is actually the conviction of these political children that Ambassador Hans Luther was recalled in consequence of their "influence"! Among the many thousands who listen devoutly to the "great sayings" at Yaphank and other "camps" there are many who "hear, believe and repeat". If Ambassador Dieckhoff does unofficially discuss with gentlemen of the Department of State at some time the question of whether any influences of the "Bund" had any influence on the recall of Luther, he will not be able to repress the "smile of the augur". For all know (just as the regular readers of this column do): Luther was recalled because he failed as Ambassador.

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Ambassador Dieckhoff has accomplished something in taking the action before the Department of State that has already been described. But, as already indicated, the long overdue "cutting of every tie with the set of Nazi organizations", both by members of the Washington Embassy and those of the New York Consulate General, does not appear to have gone far enough. The behavior of both offices with respect to the question of participation of the New York celebration of "German Day" cannot be understood otherwise. And no one need be surprised if the "big mouths" and the "little Führers" again begin to point out their "influence

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on the filling of positions in German missions in foreign countries" - and if many circles again give credence to such assertions! In Washington, the case of "German Day", together with subsidiary phenomena, has naturally been commented on a great deal. The adoption of an official attitude by Massachusetts Avenue might have contributed considerably toward clearing the atmosphere.

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Let it be emphasized once more: the Wilhelmstrasse (and that includes everything!) can contribute its share toward a bettering of relations between here and over there and a showing up of these would be great men and miniature Führers, if it gives unreserved support to its accredited representative in Washington and energetically makes it plain once and for all to certain subordinate officials that "service to the party" is no license to abuse the hospitality of a friendly nation and meddle in the affairs of American citizens of German speech, with the time-tried prescription of sentimental ties.

And what suits the American Division of the Foreign Office ought to satisfy the Bohle organization!