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NO. 1471

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Berlin, Germany, July 31, 1933.

SUBJECT: With respect to retaliatory measures taken
against Communists in concentration camps in
Germany.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a clipping
from the "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 29, 1933, a literal
translation of which is as follows:

"Steps Taken Against Communists who have
been Arrested for their own Protection

The Press Bureau in the Prussian
Ministry of State gives out the following:
It is known that on the day of National
Labor (May 1) there was planted on the
Tempelhof Field the Hindenburg Oak and that
this was mutilated (zerstoert) on the night
of July 27. The State Secret Political
Police have ordered as a retaliatory measure
that all Communists who have been arrested
for their own protection, shall be deprived
of their midday meal for three days. The
Communists under arrest are to be informed
that this measure is being taken on account
of the crime committed on the Hindenburg Oak."

There is no proof advanced, nor any statement made
in that respect, that this mutilation of the Hindenburg
Oak is due to Communists; but the Communists and the Jews

are

are the ones who must bear the responsibility of any acts which it may seem advisable to impute to them or which serve as a pretext of taking measures against them.

The deprivation of the Communists under arrest of their midday meal for three days for such a trivial reason, may remind the Department of the incident reported in another despatch, where five of Scheidemann's relatives in Germany were arrested and placed in a concentration camp because of an article which he wrote and which appeared in the "New York Times".

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:

Clipping from "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 29
(with original of despatch only).

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GSM:P

