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Subject: "Visit of Albert Wiggin, Chairman of the Board of
The Chase National Bank of New York to Berlin".

It was, I believe, in the second half of 1933 or in the first part of 1934 that the Ambassador got word that Albert Wiggin, the Chairman of the Board of the Chase National Bank in New York, was coming to London and was burning to come to Berlin. Wiggin communicated with the Ambassador when he arrived in London and stated that he had been asked by Chancellor Hitler to come to Berlin while he was in Europe as ~~he~~ he wished very much to see him. He asked the Ambassador's advice as to what he should do. Ambassador Dodd discussed the matter with me and asked me what I thought. I told him that I did not see that any useful purpose would be served by having Wiggin go to see Hitler but that, on the other hand, I had the impression that Wiggin probably wanted to see Hitler. I said that I did not know Wiggin well but that I knew that he was considered as a rather pompous individual and probably out of curiosity he was interested in talking with Hitler. It was something for Wiggin to talk about. I said that so far as Hitler was concerned, there were probably some of the people around Hitler of the more moderate type who thought it might be useful for him to have a talk with a man like Wiggin, who, as Chairman of the Board of the Chase Bank, occupied of course, in the opinion of the Germans, a very important position in financial circles in the United States. I did not see that the visit would serve any useful purpose because I did not think that Wiggin would get anything out of it nor would Hitler. The chances were that he would not listen to anything that Wiggin would say anyway, and what Hitler would say to Wiggin would not be helpful.

When Wiggin got in touch again with the Ambassador, the Ambassador told him that he would have to use his own discretion in the matter; that if he wished to see Hitler while he was in Berlin and the matter had been arranged already ~~between~~ by Wiggin with Hitler's people

there was nothing for the Embassy to do. Wiggin came to Berlin and he saw Hitler. There were only four people present during the conversation: Hitler, Wiggin, and an English translator whom Hitler had and in whom he had a great deal of confidence, and some one to translate for Wiggin. When Wiggin came into the Chancellor's office they shook hands and there was a silence. The initiative definitely had been taken by Hitler or by those around him for the conversation and Hitler must have been briefed; he was obviously waiting for Wiggin to talk. Wiggin was waiting for Hitler to talk. Finally Hitler's interpreter said to him, "Mr. Wiggin, as you know, Mr. Chancellor, is one of the most important bankers in the United States, and he has quite a knowledge of financial and economic conditions throughout the world." Hitler then started out to make a speech and it was as though he was speaking in the Reichstag or in a public place. It was the same old story, a tirade first about the Treaty of Versailles, the treatment which Germany had received from France and England and the United States, and then he worked himself up into his usual tirade against the Jews. After this had been going on for some minutes, Wiggin, who understood not a word of what was being said, turned to his interpreter and said, "What is he talking about?" And his interpreter replied, "He is talking about the Jews". Wiggin showed some impatience and after this interlude, Hitler began to continue his tirade. After some minutes more Wiggin again turned to his interpreter and asked, "What is he talking about now?" And his interpreter said that he was still talking about the Jews.

At this point the interpreter for Hitler, who realized that things were going very badly and that Wiggin was becoming ostensibly annoyed, said, "Mr. Chancellor, as you know Mr. Wiggin is in a position to give you some very interesting information concerning financial situations in various parts of the world", and this remark was translated

of course by Wiggin's translator to him.

Hitler continued with his tirade; Wiggin got up, he turned to his interpreter and said, "Tell Mr. Hitler that we have lots of Jews in New York. I know about the Jews, he doesn't need to tell me anything about the Jews. I thought I came here to talk about something else." Wiggin was fed up and got up and the interview ended there.

The whole incident served only one purpose, whatever illusions Wiggin may have had concerning Hitler were destroyed; whatever illusions those around Hitler had as to the possible value of such an interview to Hitler and his regime were destroyed. Although Wiggin had not understood a word which had been said by Hitler during the interview, he could see the irresponsible and fanatic manner in which he carried himself.

From the brief conversation which I had with Wiggin, I gathered that it may have, on the whole, been useful that the conversation took place, because it was clear from the conversation which I had with Wiggin that he had had some illusions about Hitler and what he was doing and that he was not believing what was being said in the press.

In this connection, and characteristic of the attitude of Hitler, the following is of interest. Shortly after the Hitler regime came in, a sort of super economic council was set up, and four or five of the leading industrialists in Germany were asked to sit in it. Among them was *Gheinevat* Schmitz, who was the head of the I. G. Farben. He was a man respected all over Germany for his undoubted capacity as an administrator and businessman. He found it convenient to go along with the regime and he consented to sit on this council. It was at one of the first meetings of the council, that either Hitler himself suggested or it was suggested to him, that he come to one of the meetings. He entered the room where these five or six industrialists were gathered

around the table. Hitler came into the room and looked around. He looked at *Gohmert* Schmitz and said, "I smell a Jew. I don't like the atmosphere of this place", and turned on his heel and left the room. ^{still}

There is a great deal of curiosity/as to what Hitler was really like. Even today some of my friends, who are very well informed, ask me what Hitler was really like. At another place I shall speak of my own impressions of the man. At this point I wish to say that the book which gives the best picture of Hitler as he really was is the recently published book by General Heinz Guderian entitled "Panzer Leader". While the first part of this book is devoted very largely to the technical and purely military aspects of tank warfare, which General Guderian did so much to develop, the second half of the book gives the best picture of Hitler and Goering and others of the leading civil and military figures of the time. General Guderian was a great German; he was one of those German military men who was not only a great strategist but in many respects a great statesman. He was like General von Seckt and General von Fritsch and a few others whom I could mention, really great Germans. He was one hundred percent a military man; he served the Nazi regime because it was the government of his country and he was a soldier. He was never a Nazi; he never had a single illusion either about Hitler or any of his associates or any of their policies or acts. He did his duty as a military man to his government, and perhaps he thought he was helping to save his country from ruin and annihilation. There is certainly no doubt that he was ^{not} fighting for Hitler and what Hitler stood for. It is seldom that a man writes so honestly as General Guderian has done in this book. For those who are interested in having a real picture of Hitler and Goering and Goebbels and the rest of that nefarious crew, there is, I believe, no more accurate book, no more adequate book

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than this published by General Guderian. What he did in connection with tank warfare showed what a great general and strategist he was; his book shows what a great German and what a great man he was. It is the best picture of Hitler we have.

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