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NO. 1544

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,  
Berlin, Germany, August 25, 1933.

SUBJECT: Further action indicating the efforts of the  
German authorities to establish order in  
business.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my confidential despatch No. 1500 of August 10, 1933, in which I recited the latest developments in the economic and general business situation in Germany during the past weeks. In this despatch I emphasized that all the recent measures by the Government were in the direction of retracing steps formerly taken and tending towards a restoration of order and confidence in the business world.

With particular reference to certain sections of the despatch under reference, it is now interesting to note that about a week ago the Betriebszellenleiter in Thuringia was arrested and placed in confinement because he failed to obey the orders which had been issued from Berlin that the representatives of the Betriebszellen were to be removed from certain places of business where they had been set

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up and where by their arbitrary and inconsiderate action they were causing serious disturbance. The fact that the arrest of this Betriebszellenleiter was given publicity in the German press quite generally, is an indication that the arrest was made and publicity given to it because the authorities are in earnest with regard to the statements made with reference to the withdrawal of the representatives of the Betriebszellen. The concrete reason for the arrest of this particular leader was not mentioned in the press, but I am in a position to state that from a confidential and well-informed source I learn that this leader was insisting that certain manufacturers take on 10% more workmen than they were then employing, irrespective of whether the particular plant had any employment for the men or not. The orders which he issued to the factory heads to the effect that they must employ 10% more men, were estegoric. The particular heads of industries complained to the central authorities in Berlin that if they were obliged to take on this burden, it would result in the closing down of the establishments entirely. In their desire to make public statements with regard to the decrease of unemployment, the Party leaders had sanctioned heretofore as a policy, this forced employment of additional people; but the fallacy of this program was realized some weeks ago and it was definitely abandoned.

In the "Berliner Tageblatt" of August 18 there appeared an article from Weimar entitled: "A last Warning". The article goes on to state that Fritz Triebel, the

Betriebszellenleiter



Betriebszellenleiter and the Arbeitsfrontleiter for middle Germany, has given out the following statement:

"Although from this office there have gone out recently orders that intervention in the business life on the part of representatives of the N.S.B.O. are strictly forbidden, there have come to me in the last days violations of this order. I therefore wish to say for the last time that unauthorized intervention in business matters coming from the N.S. B.O. will be strictly punished and the offenders will be thrown out of the N. S.B.O. and without further preliminary, delivered over to the judicial authorities for further punishment."

This article which appeared in the "Tageblatt" was also repeated in the Berlin and provincial papers. The publication is intended as a warning to Party members, particularly to the N.S.B.O.

I have transmitted the foregoing information to the Department as it is confirmatory evidence of the increasing effectiveness with which the Government is carrying through its orders tending towards the reestablishment of order and confidence in the business field.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,  
American Consul General.

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