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Subject: Assignment of Rublee to Berlin in 1939 to endeavor to make arrangements with the Nazi government with reference to better treatment for refugees.

It was in 1939, while I was in the Department as Assistant Secretary of State, that the Secretary and the President requested George Rublee, a member of the important firm of Covington, Rublee, etc. in Washington, to make a trip to Germany for the Department in order to arrange for better treatment of refugees within Germany and also for the easier movement of refugees out of Germany to other countries. Rublee was a distinguished member of the Washington Bar, who had frequently performed accidental services for our government. During the time that Dwight Morrow was Ambassador to Mexico Rublee had spent some time in Mexico City as a special assistant to Morrow. Much later he had gone to Colombia while Ambassador Caffrey was stationed there on a mission for the Department. President Roosevelt was very much interested in the work which Rublee was expected to do in Berlin as he had this very deep interest in those who were suffering from Nazi persecution in various parts of Europe as well as in Germany.

The telegrams from Rublee showed, as they arrived in the Department, that he was having considerable trouble. He did not receive much collaboration at the outset from the Nazi officials. Geist, who was our Consul General in Berlin at the time and who knew all of the important German officials well because of his long stay in the country, finally arranged for Rublee to see Goering. The conversations which Rublee had been carrying on with Weizacker, the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Berlin, had proved most unsatisfactory and, therefore, Geist who knew Goering very well and who knew, as I did, that Goering was one of the few men in the Nazi regime with whom one could at least talk with reason at times, arranged for Rublee to see Goering and thereafter things went better and Rublee had a fair measure of success in his mission.

It so happens that today, March 1955, Rublee who is now much advanced in years and completely retired from all legal and other business, came to see me with Mrs. Rublee at our home in Cuernavaca. Mrs. Dwight Morrow, the widow of the former Ambassador to Mexico, almost every year after her husband's death returned to Mexico in February or March for a three to five week stay. She usually brought with her a group of friends in a special car. From the beginning of my stay in Mexico City, in 1942, it was always a pleasure for my wife and me to see Mrs. Morrow in her home in Cuernavaca and in ours in Mexico City. It was only a few days ago, March 1955, that this great lady passed away. George Rublee and Mrs. Rublee almost invariably came with Mrs. Morrow on these annual pilgrimages to Mexico and Cuernavaca. When I saw him today I spoke about his tour of duty in Berlin in 1939 on the refugee matter and said that I recalled vividly the telegrams which we had got from him at that time in the Department and I always wondered whether he had any reason to know why Weizacker in the Foreign Office did not collaborate with him. He was a career diplomat and a man who had seen a good deal of the world and it seemed very difficult to understand why Weizacker gave him so little collaboration. Rublee said that he did not know for what reasons Weizacker did not collaborate but he only knew that he did not collaborate until Goering saw him (Rublee) and after that things went better. He said that Goering had received him very kindly and that he had discussed the matter at length with him and had found Goering very understanding and certainly he proved to be helpful.

I observed to Rublee that many times in these intervening years when people have asked me about persons in the Nazi regime I have always referred to Goering as the only one with whom one could discuss any

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matter on a basis of reason. It was not always possible to do this but it usually was. I had said this not to condone anything that Goering had done in other ways but that I had found him always against the persecution of the Jews and other persons in the Reich, perhaps only because he knew how contrary it was to Germany's interests abroad. I thought I had done a good deal to help to educate Goering in this respect through the conversations I had with Goering almost invariably at the instigation of General Milch. I said that Goering really hated the Jews because he had often said to me that the Jews were responsible for the death of his wife as well as for the loss of the war, that is, the first World War. I said that Goering felt, and had so said to me, that it was because of the machinations of the international Jews and of the Jews in Germany that the food situation had arisen in the country and his wife, suffering from tuberculosis, had not been able to get milk and other proper foods which led to her death. Further than that I said that Goering was undoubtedly one of those, and I knew this to be a fact from statements he had made, who felt that Germany had only lost the war because of a series of factors among which the machinations of the international Jews were the most important. In spite of this deep hatred he did realize that the attacks on and maltreatment of Jews were doing the Nazi regime a great deal of harm and would not do any good.

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