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NO. 1222

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Berlin, Germany, April 7, 1933.

SUBJECT: With further reference to the manifold aspects of the anti-Jewish movement in Germany and to removal from office of all persons opposed to the National Socialist movement.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the strictly confidential despatches which I have sent to the Department with reference to manifold aspects of the anti-Jewish movement in Germany and more particularly to my despatches Nos. 1214 of March 31, 1933 and 1216 of April 3, 1933, in which last despatch the situation was set forth as up to April 3.

The Department has noted from these despatches that practically all Jews have been eliminated from high as well as lowly positions in the Government; that in the professions such as law and medicine the Jews have been practically excluded; and that practically all Jewish judges if not all, have been removed from the courts, criminal, civil and commercial, this movement having extended from the highest court, the Supreme Court in Leipzig, to the commercial courts connected with the Chambers of Commerce. Jewish teachers have been eliminated from the schools. It had been brought to the attention of the Department that certain important persons in the Ministry of Finance had been allowed to

remain

remain because of their special technical knowledge. It is now interesting to note that Mr. Zarden who has been the ranking officer in the Finance Ministerium next to the Minister, has been eliminated.

The movement has now been extended to the Universities and is not only striking Jewish professors but non-Jewish professors who have not been entirely in sympathy with the National Socialist movement. The "Vossische Zeitung" of April 3 carries an article to the effect that the Rector of the University of Frankfurt, Professor Dr. Gerloff, was temporarily taken into custody "to assure his safety" and was then released after he had "voluntarily" resigned his position. The Curator of the University of Frankfurt, Professor Dr. Riezler, according to this article was also taken into custody temporarily "to assure his safety" and afterwards released after he had "voluntarily" requested that he be given leave of absence. According to the same article the Rector of the Technical High School in Braunschweig (this being equivalent to a technical college), Professor Dr. Gassner, was arrested and taken to the prison. The same article states that the financial editor of the "Frankfurter Zeitung", Arthur Lauinger, was on Monday, April 3, arrested in the Boufse and that the reasons for his arrest were not known. He is the President of the Association of Press Men in Frankfurt. A long list of similar incidents recited in the carefully and absolutely

censored

censored German press could be recited and the foregoing are simply set forth to indicate the progress of the so-called cleaning-out process.

In a letter dated April 3, Consul Bussler at Leipzig brings to the attention of the Embassy the fact that Justizrat Dr. Martin Drucker, who is a Jew racially but whose father adopted the Christian religion and who is not only one of the leaders of the Leipzig Bar but one of the most distinguished lawyers of Germany, having been active President of the National Association of German Lawyers for about ten years, was removed on Saturday, April 1, from the court room in Chemnitz, Saxony during a trial where he was representing a defendant. During the trial a uniformed S.A. man entered the court and attempted to arrest Dr. Drucker.

Both the presiding judge of the court and Dr. Drucker protested and requested the S.A. man to show an official document authorizing him to make the arrest, whereupon he left and the trial proceeded. Shortly afterwards a police sergeant accompanied by three S.A. men entered the court and insisted on Dr. Drucker leaving with them. In spite of the protests of the presiding judge the National Socialists threatened violence and it was necessary for Dr. Drucker to leave with them and he was taken to the police station where shortly thereafter he was released without being given any indication as to the charges against him. This incident is recited as it indicates the extremes to which the anti-Jewish movement is proceeding. Dr. Drucker was

obviously

obviously removed from the court simply because he belongs to the Jewish race, and in recent pronouncements the National Socialist Party has made it clear that it is of no interest to it whether a Jew has abandoned his religion and has become a Christian or even if his father or grandfather may have become a Christian. To the Party the only concern is whether he is a Jew racially.

Excellens Leewald who is well known in the United States and who has a long and distinguished career as a public servant in Germany and who was the head of the German Olympic Committee and as such recently in the United States, has also been made the chairman of the German Olympic Committee for the next international games to be held in Berlin. He has never been considered a Jew but it seems that his mother had some trace of Jewish blood. A very determined effort is now being made to have him removed from this position as the head of the German Olympic Committee because he has a small trace of Jewish blood. Other incidents of an equally extraordinary and exaggerated character are coming to the attention of the Consulate General continually.

As was to be expected, a movement is now beginning to be felt against the admission of foreigners into any profession in Germany under any circumstances. In an article in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of April 5, morning issue, there is a statement to the effect that the Reichskommissar in the Prussian Ministry of the

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Interior, has declared that the professions of physicians, dentists and apothecaries in Germany are so filled up that the trend towards entering them must be stopped as much as possible. To this end the most strict measures will be taken to prevent foreigners from being licensed to practice these professions. As the present regulations effective for some years are already practically exclusionary in character, it can only be assumed that new measures will exclude foreigners entirely from the practice of medicine and dentistry.

The Consulate General desires to call to the particular attention of the Department the copies of two letters of April 4, No. 114 and No. 115, which Consul General Hathaway has addressed to the Embassy. These two letters are particularly indicative of the character of the public utterances of some of the National Socialist officials in various parts of Germany. These are characterized by an intemperance which is at times almost incredible and altogether contrary to the impression which has formerly been so generally held as to the temperament of such officials.

It is particularly interesting to note that the newspapers of the afternoon of April 5 and of the morning of April 6 contain practically no comment with regard to the boycott and with reference to the so-called

anti-German

anti-German propaganda in other countries. As the newspapers for a period of almost two weeks have been carrying columns and almost always on the first page an article with regard to this foreign propaganda, this practically total disappearance all at once is quite significant. It is not impossible that the Propaganda Ministry has realized that this propaganda in the German press and the arrogant tone which it assumed, has been working great injury to Germany in foreign countries.

One has the feeling today for the first time that there is at least a temporary relief in the tension which has been felt all over the country. The movement of Jews to leave the country is steadily progressing. In view of the conditions, however, the number asking for visas for the United States is comparatively small. This is due to the fact that the difficulties in securing visas for the United States are well known and the Jews without resources are obliged to remain in the country. Those who are well off prefer to go to Holland, Switzerland and neighboring countries to await developments and not to be too far away from the property and the business which they are leaving behind in Germany.

In a letter from the Consulate at Stuttgart dated April 6, 1933, Mr. Dominian states that he has been informed that from the state of Baden alone approximately three thousand Jews have entered Switzerland through Basle. A recent order of the Reich authorities according to which every German citizen leaving Germany must have a special visa from the police has,

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however, interrupted the departure of Germans, particularly Jews, so that the number leaving now is much smaller. The regulations requiring this special visa to leave Germany does not apply to American citizens.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

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A true copy of
the signed original
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