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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, November 25, 1933.

MINISTER PRESIDENT OF PRUSSIA, HERMANN GOERING.

General Goering is of medium height, stocky, broad-shouldered, and gives the general impression of force and virility. During the years that he was struggling to organize the S.A. prior to March 5, he associated with the diverse elements to which the party was making its appeal, and developed a barrack room manner and method of speech which he has not yet lost. His voice is hard, raucous and his German is that of the masses.

He is one of the few higher leaders of the party who has more than a middle class background. He is primarily a soldier. He is personally intrepid, without any fear, brutal and harsh in his methods. He is nevertheless fundamentally a man who has finer and softer reactions than most of his associates in the higher circles of the party. Although not a student and knowing little of the outside world or of business, and primarily a soldier and a flier, he has a keen, receptive mind, and while, like most members of the party, he has deep prejudices, he is amenable to reason. This very quality is one which has brought him into disfavor among some of his associates. He can not only change his opinions, but he can also change his actions. He is very much misinformed and under-informed concerning conditions in the rest of the world, but is willing to listen and to learn.

He is exceedingly vain, loves distinctions and titles,

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not only for himself, but he likes to get them for his friends. There is much reason to believe that he is not in sympathy with many of the radical ideas of his associates and probably in his inmost mind would welcome a return to monarchy, with its ceremony, titles, distinctions, uniforms, military display, which undoubtedly appeal to him. This is considered by his associates as his weakness.

He is supposed at one time to have been a drug addict, and this seems to be fairly well established. It is generally believed that he is still an addict, but his extraordinary endurance and his power to work long hours do not seem to fit in with a man who is a constant taker of drugs.

He is intensely interested in the military development and rearmament of Germany. His hobby is civilian and military air development. He believes that Germany should go ahead and rearm and probably one of the principal reasons is that he wants to be able to engage freely in the activities in which he is most interested.

He is in a sense a good administrator, for he is one of the few men of the Government who has surrounded himself in key positions with capable, first class experienced men. He is a good judge of character and realizes to a certain extent his own deficiencies. To those who know him well he is not the brutal character he is supposed to be. He has had an extraordinary capacity to attach worth-while people to him.

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Between him and Dr. Goebbels there is no love lost, and of the two, Goebbels is now the closer to the Chancellor as he is the more indispensable. The control of the S.A., which Goering built up, organized and completely controlled until a few months ago, is now more in the hands directly of the Chancellor who exercises the actual control through Stabschef Roehm. The general impression is that the power of Goering has greatly decreased recently, not only with the Chancellor but in higher party circles. He has, however, capacities and plays a role in the organization of the party of such a character which would not seem to indicate an early disappearance as a factor of the first order.