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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, April 10, 1933.

SUBJECT:

With further reference to the establishment of the Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON.

Handwritten signature

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my strictly confidential despatches No. 1188 of March 14, 1933, and No. 1195 of March 21 reporting on the establishment under the direction of Dr. Goebbels as Minister of a new Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. Although this new Ministry has been in some respects the most active of the Ministries of the Reich since the elections on March 5, 1933, its organization has just been definitely decided upon and is along the lines originally indicated in the despatches under reference.

The newspapers of April 9, 1933, carry the statement given out by the Government as to the organization of the Ministry which is to be definitely known as the "Reichs-Ministerium fuer Volksaufklaerung und Propaganda". At the head of the Ministry is Dr. Goebbels concerning whose

activity

activity as Minister there will be no question as he is indefatigable, ruthless and effective. His immediate executive is Staatssekretaer Funk who is at the same time the press chief for the entire German Government, and as such he will have directly under him the press sections of the Government and of the Foreign Office which heretofore acted separately but for which complete coordination is now provided under the new organization.

The Ministry will be composed of seven sections, as follows:

Division I.	Administration,
Division II.	Propaganda,
Division III.	Radio,
Division IV.	Press,
Division V.	Moving Pictures,
Division VI.	Theater,
Division VII.	Public Education.

It is significant to note that the wireless service which was formerly under the direct control of the Government Radio Company has been incorporated in Division IV (Press), thus placing completely the control of wireless communications with the outside world from Germany in the division which has the central and complete control of the press.

In addition, but not as a separate section, there is to be built up in the Ministry a central organization for "spiritual, cultural activities" which shall have the object to attract creative powers of the nation to the "productive, cultural efforts".

Although created only on March 13, this Ministry

under

under the direction of Dr. Goebbels has been in many respects the most active and effective of the Ministries since the accession to sole power of the National-Socialist Government. It has been clear, decisive, direct, ruthless and extremely effective in all that it has done and in the comparatively short space of less than a month it has established a complete censorship over the daily press and over periodical publications. There are only two newspapers which in any way retain a vestige of independence or which venture to offer even guarded advice. These are the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" and the "Vossische Zeitung", but these have contented themselves with offering guarded criticism of certain aspects of the economic program of the National-Socialist movement. The censorship of the press is complete and the news from within the country and from without the country is presented exactly in the way in which the National-Socialist "Vertrauensmaenner" in the editorial and in the news sections of every newspaper intend that it shall reach the public. It is practically impossible even for an intelligent German to-day to get any idea of the foreign reaction to what is passing in Germany as his views must be based on what he reads in the German newspapers. In the opera, in the theater and in the moving pictures field the action has been rapid and thorough, and the control which is exercised upon them is almost as complete as that which has been exercised over the

newspapers.

newspapers. Practically all Jewish elements except those still indispensable for technical reasons have been eliminated and all non-Jewish elements not known to be in thorough sympathy with the aims of the National-Socialist movement or rather its leaders, have been taken out of these organizations.

The importance of the organization of this Ministry, its objects and the effective way in which they are being carried out, cannot be lost sight of in any consideration which is given to the Germany of to-day and to the internal and external problems brought up by this situation. Dr. Goebbels is one of the strongest men in the National-Socialist movement and in the present Government, and he has under his complete control every avenue of reaching or forming public opinion. It is probable that such a complete control in so effective a form has never been exercised before in modern times since these public opinion moulding agencies exist. Dr. Goebbels has made it clear in a recent declaration when he was asked how long this control would continue, that it was not possible to fix any time, but he made it clearly understood that it would probably last for years and until it had achieved its object - that of making every German a National-Socialist.

As significant of the changes which are being brought about in business through this Ministry it is interesting to note that it has been announced that

Mr. Lachmann-Mosse

Mr. Lachmann-Mosse, the head of the Mosse press which publishes the "Berliner Tageblatt", has given up the direction of the Mosse interests and has placed them in the hands of some of his former co-workers who, incidentally, are not Jews. At the same time Mr. Lachmann-Mosse announced that he and his wife for the period of 15 years would give the surplus of the whole business for the founding of a fund to give help to victims of the World War, regardless of religion. It is generally understood that this action was taken by Mr. Lachmann-Mosse in order to endeavor to at least safeguard the ownership of the business even though for 15 years he gives up all profit which might come to him from it. The newspapers also carry an item to the effect that the "Koelnische Volkszeitung" has announced that the board of directors has decided to liquidate. The two outstanding members of the governing board, Heinrich Maus and Julius Stocky, have resigned, and the company will be organized on another commercial basis (wirtschaftliche Grundlage) which seems to indicate that the Jewish interest has been compelled to sacrifice itself. These are two instances of the effective action which is being taken in commercial enterprises through the intervention of the party, but these two are mentioned here merely as they refer to the effective operation of the new Ministry.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

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GSM:HP

A true copy of
the signed original.
[Signature]