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310/800 GSM:P

Berlin, Germany, July 22, 1933.

Handwritten signature

Honorable William E. Dodd,
American Ambassador,
Berlin.

Sir:

I have to refer to our conversation of late last evening, in which I brought to your attention the attack on Philip Zuckerman, a naturalized American citizen living in Berlin, which took place in Leipzig on July 16, 1933. I had the opportunity in the conversation, to detail to you the visits which I made to Staatssecretaer Dr. Schlegelberger, the Acting Minister of Justice for Prussia, to Dr. Milch, the Staatssecretaer at the head of the Reichs Ministry for Air, to Staatssecretaer Grauert in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, to Staatssecretaer Dr. Pfundtner in the Reichs Ministry of Interior, and to Dr. Volk of the State Secret Political Police. I left with you copies of the memoranda covering the conversations with Dr. Schlegelberger and Dr. Milch, and also a copy of the affidavit executed by Mr. Zuckerman covering the details of the attack, as well as a copy of my letter to Dr. Diels of the State Secret Political Police, transmitting a copy of Mr. Zuckerman's affidavit and asking for immediate, appropriate action towards the arrest and punishment of the S.A. men involved.

I now have to transmit herewith copies of the memoranda covering my conversations with Dr. Pfundtner, Dr. Volk and Dr. Grauert. All of them expressed deep regret that this incident should

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have taken place and particularly that an American citizen should have been attacked. They all seemed to understand that in this instance it is absolutely essential that the attackers of Mr. Zuckerman be given appropriate punishment, and assured me that this would be done irrespective of the fact that they may be members of the S.A. Dr. Schlegelberger and Dr. Grauert particularly emphasized that it was necessary that hereafter S.A. men guilty of offenses against the law, should be punished in the same way as other persons.

As I am confident that if appropriate action is not taken by the authorities in finding and punishing the S.A. men involved in the attack on Mr. Zuckerman, it will be necessary for our Government to take the most energetic action, I took occasion in the conversations which I had yesterday to give all the background possible so that there can be no question that the German authorities understand the gravity of the present case. I was convinced, as a result of the interviews, that they do understand it and in case there is a lack of appropriate action, it will, as a matter of principle and of prestige and for the protection of Americans here and elsewhere, be necessary for our Government to take the most energetic action.

I shall not fail to keep you advised of the developments in the case.

Very respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosures:
Copies of three memoranda.

A true copy of
the signed original.
JWS