(497)

Vienna, February 6, 1935.

NOTES.

I saw Unden, the Swedish Minister, today and he says that there is much dissatisfaction with the Government on account of the predominance of the Church. Also dissatisfaction with Schuschnigg as he can never be popular. People most spoken of are Gleisner, the Governor of Upper Austria, Adam, and Schmitz. In his opinion, however Schimtz is impossible as he is even more clerical than Schuschnigg. Schmitz, however, exceedingly anxious for more power and characterized as ambitious and sly. He does not believe, however, that there will be any changes in the near future.

I had long talk with my Yugoslav colleague who said he had just seen the Foreign Minister who had expressed his pleasure over recent speech of Jeftic coming out openly for Austrian independence. He for the first time expressed himself as being strongly for Austrian independence as it was quite clear that if Austria fell to Germany they would soon have her on their frontiers. He referred to the German promises, especially by Goering, and said that they meant nothing. He said that now Germany was much more active at Budapest than at Belgrade. France, he said, had been neglecting Yugoslavia but that it was clear that it was better for her to have to deal with Italy than with Germany for at least she worked more in the open. All this came very strangely from him as his personal orientation heretofore was more towards Germany than Italy, but out of fear of Germany rathern than predilection. I told him that their safety lay only in one direction, where if Austria were to go, they were sure to go too. Things, he said, were going quite well in Yugoslavia.

Talked with Berger-Waldenegg at length. Gave him a copy of the Department's release on the breakdown of Soviet relations and pointed out that position with Germany was now analogous and that Soviet record of performances on promises was better than that of present Government, to which he agreed. Also read him pertinent parts of Rome telegram and he said they had same information from Suvich. Also gave him information from Berlin with regard to recent conversations of friends with Hitler and Goering, in which very much interested. He said that Germany's answer was probably to gain time and that it was all a question if now they felt they had to give in or not. I talked to him briefly about the economic situation which he seemed to think better in Germany, and tried to give him more exact data.

It was interesting to have him say that in recent talk with Benes he told him that they would have to stand by Austria for otherwise they were lost. If they did not get this help they would have to become more Nazi than the Nazis to save themselves and Austria from becoming mere provinces. I remarked that even this would not save them from becoming a province. It was quite clear that if the foreign help disappears the Government here will swing rapidly into the Nazi camp. This is more than a mere threat, but indicates the fear of what will happen to individuals if foreign support falls away. He thinks that Germany is going to play for time.

The British Minister told me he had a report last evening that some Nazis who were in the July putsch had been brought back into their former positions, but could not verify this yet.

Saw Peter who is as usual, pessimistic, and became excited when he remarked that he was sorry to have to live in a world in which it was necessary to make pacts about things which should be taken for granted. He said that years ago no one would have thought of the necessity of making a non-interference pact. A non-aggression pact, perhaps yes, but a non-interference pact showed what a disturbing influence Germany had brought into the world.

Saw Professor Redlich yesterday who laid emphasis on the necessity of our policy of consolidating our position in the Western World. One of the best guarantees for protection for the white race. He emphasized that the return of another regime in Germany naturally means a respite, but that Germans are filled with this idea of superiority and that any German Government will find it difficult to respect the rights of others. Said that in the daysof the Empire Franz Josef recognized this danger from Germany, whose favorite remark was about the Preussische Saugling in Austria who were always talking about the Grossdeutschtum idea. He pointed out that a good class in Germany always were against Christianity because it provided a curb on Germany's ambitions. This is an extraordinarily keen remark. He pointed out that an intimate study of many German books showed this keen resentment against the limitations of Christianity. This is exemplified by the recent revival of the Wittikind drama covered in a Times article. He has no confidence whatever in Germany or its good intentions. He has no doubt that Germany has definite pacts with Poland and Japan. He wants to see Hull on his return and I told him I would mention this in a letter to Moffat. He is an old man, but his ideas are ripe and worth listening to.