

November 15, 1938.

If Nazis Take Hint, Envoy May Leave

Calling In of Wilson May Be First Step Of 'Cool Spell'

By DAVID LAWRENCE.

The Government of the United States has manifested to the government of Germany the profound impression which the recent outbursts of Nazis against innocent men, women and children has made on the people of America.

The instructions issued in the last 24 hours to the American Ambassador at Berlin to come to Washington for reports and consultation were announced orally to the press, and it was learned that the recent events in Germany were the direct cause of that order.



David Lawrence.

Technically, this does not mean a severance of diplomatic relations nor is it possible to describe the action as the formal recall of an Ambassador because the Department of State does not indicate the length of time Ambassador Hugh Wilson is to remain in the United States.

The purpose of the action, however, is clear. It was intended to register America's disapproval of what has happened and to generate a discussion on all sides as to what civilized nations can do to check the barbarisms of the Nazi government. The Nazis, no doubt, will seek to construe the event as a routine affair, but, on the other hand, official information given out here was to the effect that the Ambassador's orders to come home were in connection with "recent happenings in Germany," so there can be no doubt that the American Government has chosen this way to indicate to the whole world that the United States is deeply moved by the cruel course of action adopted by the Nazis.

May Recall Envoy.

If the Nazis take the hint, the German government may recall her Ambassador, too. This sometimes completes the act which is not exactly a break in diplomatic relations but the beginning of a cool spell. The business of the American Embassy will be conducted by a charge d'affaires for an indefinite period. The German Ambassador here is personally on good terms with the American Government and while, apparently, his representations concerning the American point of view are totally disregarded in Berlin, there is nothing to indicate that the United States Government wants the German Ambassador to leave. As a matter of fact, the Department of State has been talking directly to the German Ambassador here on many of the tangled questions of the day rather than through the Embassy in Berlin, leaving the latter course for incidents arising out of the specific rights of Americans.

Mr. Wilson is a trained diplomat and has been particularly useful in gathering information concerning events inside Germany. The instructions for him to return home to report will in a practical way mean little because the Government here has already been informed by cable, radio and telephone of the essential points in the Nazi campaign of terrorism.

Warning to Press.

It may be asked on what grounds of international law the order to the American Ambassador was issued, especially since the treatment of persons within German boundaries is not customarily a subject for action by another country. In this instance the inhumane nature of the treatment of minority population is a basic cause, but it would not be surprising if the insulting tone of the German cabinet's warnings to the American press as to what it may or may not discuss had more to do with it than any other single factor. When a foreign government undertakes to threaten the press of this country, and to state publicly that innocent persons will be injured unless the American press adopts a different course, it amounts to foreign coercion of American institutions, and this is something which no government of character will tolerate from another.

Although nothing has been said officially about it, there is every reason to believe that Ambassador Wilson will not return to Germany unless the Nazi government shows a decided change in its policy toward minorities as well as toward the property and persons of American citizens resident abroad. As to the

so-called "spontaneous" uprisings of the "German people" against Jewish merchants and their properties, it may be taken for granted that mobs will in the future be unable to distinguish between foreign-owned and German-owned properties.

Become Apprehensive.

When a central government has little regard for the damage and injury which may befall foreigners and itself incites the riots, then foreign governments naturally become apprehensive lest further outbreaks will directly affect foreign lives and property.

The Nazi government's explanation that the riots were not inspired or incited by the Fascists themselves were not accepted here as sincere, especially since a German cabinet minister states he was in sympathy with the outbreaks.

The American government has witnessed the outrages against Jews and Catholics with a feeling that somehow a protest of significance should be made to bring the Nazi government to its senses. The first step has been taken and if American public opinion approves, there may yet be a complete break in diplomatic relations. For the question now really is whether the American people wish to ostracize the Nazis and have no further intercourse with them while the barbaric poli-

cies are maintained. On the response which the first step has received will depend future steps in the evolution of America's historic position of expressing sympathy with oppressed peoples.

(Copyright, 1938.)