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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, July 29, 1933.

SUBJECT: With respect to the aims of the National-Socialist party to spread propaganda in other countries.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my strictly confidential despatch No. 1388 of June 24, 1933, on the alleged interest of the National-Socialist party in the so-called third party movement in the United States. In this despatch I brought to the attention of the Department information which had come to our attention with respect to the desire of a certain wing of the National-Socialist party to form National-Socialist parties in other countries. I ventured to state in the despatch that, phantastic as the idea might seem, a considerable element among the intermediary leaders of the party had a real belief that it would be possible for them to form a National-Socialist movement in practically all countries of Europe and in the United States.

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As indicative of this spirit I may call attention to an article which appeared in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 26, 1933, reporting a speech which Dr. Ley, the head of the German "Arbeitsfront" made at Burg Lobeda. In this speech Dr. Ley is reported as having said:

" Material need will be mastered like play when we have mastered the spiritual needs. I look forward into the future with immense hopes. We will be able to master unemployment and all suffering and need. I believe that in the next year we will no longer have any more unemployment than in normal times before the war, and that in two years we will not have enough people to do all the work there will be. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NATIONAL-SOCIALISM WILL HALT AT THE FRONTIERS OF GERMANY, BUT THAT IT WILL FIND A FOOTHOLD WHEREVER THE SAME CONDITIONS AND THE SAME THOUGHT PREVAIL."

While Dr. Ley is a man who no longer has real authority in the party and who will probably be gradually eliminated from leadership in the National-Socialist movement, he is at present being very vocal and these ideas which he is expressing are raising extraordinary hopes among certain elements of the German population and are undoubtedly a germ of future trouble.

In a speech reported in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of July 27, which Dr. Goebbels made at Kulmbach, he is reported as having said that in the progress of the next eight years five German universities would be founded in which the old National-Socialists would find their greatest service the building up of leaders for the future. If in every year these universities will send out five thousand men, then the duration of National-Socialist Germany is made safe not only for a

century

century, but for eternity. While these high sounding and really hollow phrases of Dr. Goebbels mean little to the objective observer, they stimulate the masses which hear them.

It is interesting to note that the above statement of Dr. Goebbels was made in connection with his visit to a school of the National-Socialist party in Plassenburg, which is intended to train so-called "Fuehrer" or leaders. In speaking to the students at this school, Dr. Goebbels is reported as having said:

" The National-Socialist revolution will not be restricted to Germany, but in fifty years will have taken a grip on all of Europe, just as the French revolution of 1789 was the first step in a general European upset. Just as France out of this revolution conquered for itself a position as a world power, so will Germany through the National-Socialist revolution force for itself a position as a world power."

This statement of Dr. Goebbels, that it is the intention to create five new universities within the next eight years, is significant principally in the sense that it indicates the intention of the party to build up schools which shall have as their main object the training of propagandists and servants of the party. Just as every form of national life is to be brought within the party, it will not be content with the coordination of the present universities, which has already taken place, but intends to build up special schools devoted particularly to the training of its high priests.

As an indication of the steps which are being taken by the National-Socialists in Germany to spread

National-Socialist doctrine and propaganda in other countries, I transmit with the original of this despatch the original of a letter received by one of the alien clerks on the staff of this office, who happens to be a Dane. She received this letter from the so-called "Danmarks National-Socialistiske Parti", and a translation of the letter is as follows:

" Landsmand! Compatriot! In support of our work for the spreading of the National-Socialist idea in Denmark we have founded a local group in Berlin. We hereby invite you to support us by joining the party and ask you to participate in our weekly evening meetings which are being held every Wednesday, at 8 o'clock p.m., in the Hollendorf-Casino, Kleiststrasse 41, together with the Norwegian and Swedish local groups.

For a free, united and nordic Denmark,
Hail ! (Signature illegible). "

The clerk in question went to the meeting out of mere curiosity and found that it was held in a restaurant of a very mediocre type where some thirty to forty people were gathered. She said that although she has been connected with the Danish colony, the Danish congregation and the Danish Club at Berlin for many years, she did not see anyone of the Danes in Berlin whom she knows. She stated that the persons present were saluting each other with the Fascist salute and that some of the persons present were wearing the S.A. uniform. The clerk further said that she did not remain as she did not care to be seen in a gathering where she knew none. It would seem from her report that none of the really leading members of the Danish colony were present and that the meeting was simply organized by the propaganda

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section of the National-Socialist party in Berlin for the purpose of getting together Danes to begin here propaganda for the formation of a National-Socialist party in Denmark.

I may say further in this connection that some weeks ago there was held in South Germany a meeting of Germans living in various parts of the world. I have not been able to locate the newspaper clipping describing the meeting and I have mislaid the picture section of the "Hamburger Fremdenblatt" in which was reproduced a photograph of a group of what seemed to be fairly important Germans present at this meeting. I remember that the account said that outstanding Germans residing in many countries were present to discuss ways and means for bringing about favorable German propaganda in foreign countries, principally in Europe and in South America, and to furnish background for the formation of a National-Socialist party in the countries in which they lived. As I remember, a representative seems to have been present from most South American countries, and the United States seemed to be the only country not represented.

I merely include the last two paragraphs in this despatch to indicate that there is a very real attempt at least a wing of the National-Socialist party to stimulate National-Socialist propaganda in various parts of the world.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:

Original letter. 800 GSM;HP

A true copy of
the signed original.
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