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NO. 1619

QUINTUPLICATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Berlin, Germany, September 26, 1933.

E. H. C.

SUBJECT: FURTHER INTERFERENCE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF MR.
ERNEST KIND, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GILLETTE SAFETY
RAZOR COMPANY IN SOLINGEN.

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the information of the Department a translation of a letter which Mr. Ernst Kind, the Solingen representative of the Gillette Safety Razor Company sent on September 23, 1933, to the Berlin office of that firm.

As the Department knows the Consulate General has been occupied off and on during the last three months in endeavoring to protect Mr. Erich Kind in the exercise of his duties as representative of the Gillette Safety Razor Company at Solingen. Unreliable parties which have formerly been punished for counterfeiting Gillette blades, using their trade marks, and other offences have, through their political connections in the National Socialist Party been able to enlist the help of certain party members in responsible positions.

For

For instance one Herr Hörmann seems to have a hand in every attempt made to involve Kind in difficulties. Herr Hörmann is Chief of the National Socialist Party, Press Service, in Solingen and apparently has considerable influence in party circles in that city. The plan which these unscrupulous persons have is to get rid of Kind, presumably in the interest of the above mentioned unreliable parties who would like to have a free hand in appropriating Gillette patents, business secrets, etc. This group of persons is trying to trump up criminal charges against Kind. All the papers were arbitrary seized some time ago, and the Consulate General through prompt intervention managed to secure the immediate return of all the dossiers to Mr. Kind's office. About one month ago he was again raided, this time at the order of the State's Attorney at Elberfeld with whom a charge had been lodged against Kind of bribing police officials. Kind was arrested and arraigned before the court at Elberfeld; but the Consulate General, having prompt advice with regard to these machinations, immediately approached the Prussian Ministry of Justice and informed the Ministry of these proceedings. The result was that Kind was immediately released with the verdict that no proof of the charges existed. Nevertheless all the papers seized have been held by the State's Attorney. Representations are being made again to-day in the Prussian Ministry of Justice with regard to these papers.

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The Department will be interested to learn from the enclosed letter that Kind has been summoned before the National Socialist's Party Court with whom now the group which is persecuting Kind has lodged a complaint. It is a remarkable fact that the courts are so bound up with politics that its regular procedure may be influenced by party members. Mr. Kind believes that the action of the party court is intended to intimidate the State's Attorney at Elberfeld, so that he will be forced to arrest Kind on some charge or other.

The Consulate General has been able thus far to afford very effective protection to Mr. Kind through anticipating and counteracting the moves of the group and the party members at Solingen which are endeavoring to get Mr. Kind out of the way. Strong representations were made this morning to Dr. Diels, Chief of the Secret Police, as well as to Dr. Volk, Staatsanwaltschaftsrat, attached to the same office. The Chief of the Secret Police sent a wireless this morning to Solingen instructing that Kind was not to be under any circumstances molested in any way; and he also communicated with the State's Attorney in Elberfeld instructing that the papers be returned. It may be mentioned in this connection that the Secret Police in Germany, which has the same general status as the G.P.U. in Russia, and which is under the sole direction of General Gohring, the Minister President of Prussia, has very

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large powers, and their orders are generally obeyed. The Consulate General is very fortunate in having been able to maintain very close and friendly contacts with the Secret Police and believes that it has been able in this case to successfully oppose the powerful political forces at Solingen, which have been trying to ruin Kind, with a more potent agency here in Berlin.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
Translation of letter
from Mr. Kind.

350/800
GSM/RHG-ST.

A true copy of
the signed original.
St.