

For Release

On Afternoon of 28 Dec 1939

In releasing the following report on the activities of Dr. Colin Ross in the United States the Committee on Un-American Activities wishes to make the emphatic statement that neither the committee as a whole nor any of its individual members entertains the slightest doubt of the unswerving loyalty to the United States of our fellow citizens of German descent. It is as much in their interest as in that of the nation as a whole that the committee has endeavored to bring to light some of the facts concerning the operations of Nazi agents like Colin Ross, and the leaders of the German-American Bund.

The question of the form of government of the German or any other nation is not one that concerns either this committee or the American people. But attempts by any foreign agency to influence American citizens in favor of a foreign form of government and against American democracy is quite a different matter and one concerning which the committee on un-American activities has immediate and great concern

DR. COLIN ROSS, Propaganda

This is a report on Investigations conducted by the Special Committee on un-American Activities concerning Dr. Colin Ross and his activities in the United States.

In order to preserve the prerogative of any and all branches of the Government of the United States, the Committee makes public only the result of its own investigation of the evidence available in this case.

Summarized, we find:

1. That during the World War Ross was a German spy and secret service agent and that during a portion of this time he was assigned to special propaganda work in behalf of the Imperial German Government and against the allies, at least prior to the entrance in the conflict of the United States.
2. That Ross is registered with the Department of State as a Nazi propagandist, but that he has not reported in "full" the scope of his activities, and, therefore, is liable to prosecution under the terms of this act.
3. That he committed a number of acts while in this Country which appeared to come within the category of espionage, and that officials extremely high in the Government of the United States have issued warnings and secret orders concerning these activities.
4. That many of the speaking engagements in this country featuring Ross were arranged by the various Nazi Consular officials situated throughout the Nation and that he was promoted by, and spoke for, gatherings of the German-American Bund.
5. That Fritz Kuhn, Fuehrer of the German-American Bund, in recent testimony before this Committee admitted his acquaintance with Ross.
6. That Ross was instrumental in having thirty (30) American boys taken to Germany and that the greatest part of the expense of this trip was paid for by various sub-divisions of the Nazi Government and some alleged German-Americans residing in Germany.
7. That within the past twelve (12) months Ross toured the United States with his wife, son, and uniformed chauffeur in a special Mercedes automobile, equipped with motion

picture cameras and that he appeared to have funds, far in excess of his reported earnings from Nazi agencies.

8. That he attempted to photograph several specialized industrial plants and that at least one American refused to comply with Ross' requests because they were so extremely derogatory to the best interests of the United States.
9. This Committee recommends that Dr. Colin Ross be prevented from ever again setting foot on American soil.

Dr. Colin Ross was born in 1885 in Vienna of Scottish parents. Ross lived for a number of years in Chicago, where his children went to school and his daughter, Renate, got her Ph. D. degree, from the University of Chicago.

This committee has had information that Ross became a Communist in Germany after the World War and made considerable headway in that movement. With the coming of the Nazi regime, he took their ideology and soon became one of its most important agents.

Dr. Otto Denzer, Nazi Vice Consul at Chicago, under date of December 16, 1938, in a letter to Clifton M. Utley, Director of the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations, before whom Ross was to speak said:

"He had the opportunity to be close by when the events in Munich took place and the German troops subsequently marched into the Sudeten territory."

Ross has made many trips to this Country, always plentifully provided with cash and has shown films of his native land here during which time he was directing pictures of events and places in this country.

There is indisputable proof that Ross doctored the pictures employing the artifice of Montage so that the pictures when shown in Germany did not depict facts but vile distortions and particularly with a view of showing America in the worst possible light.

While Ross lived in Chicago he made the acquaintance of Professor Martin Sprengling of the University of Chicago and the latter's son who soon provided a circle in which Ross moved.

Registration No. 310 was given to the papers filed by Ross with the Department of State under the act requiring the registration of propagandists employed in whole or in part by foreign Governments or their sub-divisions. In that statement Ross, under oath states that he resides in Munich, Koenigstrasse, 29, Germany, and that he was in this Country in connection with work as a newspaper correspondent, (He names some twenty Nazi publications) and for the purpose of making a film for the Tobis Filmkunst, Berlin.

He further claimed that his lectures in this country did not involve any foreign principle and that in all occasions he had been paid for his lectures by an American association. This statement is true but the amounts, as will be shown, did not pay much more than the cost of transportation.

- The registration statement file by this Nazi propagandist also sets out that the North German Lloyd Steamship Company (a Nazi Government owned concern) had subsidized his picture to the extent of Seven Thousand (7,000) marks (about \$2,800).

Ross also revealed that he had been paid \$25 for a lecture in Boston, \$50 in New York, \$75 in Chicago, before various foreign policy groups and that his compensation for three lectures before a German Vocational league netted him \$275. He also admits that he received \$35 from the Technische Verein, Chicago; \$25 from the Colubia Damen Club, Chicago; \$35 from the Deutsche Zeitung, Baltimore, and \$25 from the Deutsche Verein, Cleveland. He further accounts for an additional \$150 for two lectures on the West Coast. These earnings total only \$695.

This sum, as readily can be seen, does not account for any of the number of speeches that he made before groups of the German-American Bund or for the many articles he contributed to the Nazi Nachruf and Beobachter, published in this country under the supervision of Fritz Kuhn, Fuehrer of the German-American Bund, who admitted under oath in recent testimony before this Committee that he knew Ross.

Information in possession of this Committee proves that Ross had expensive photographic equipment attached to his automobile in such manner that pictures could be taken quickly and from any angle.

The Committee has further information that Ross sent many of the pictures he directed to the laboratories of the Agfa Film Company at Los Angeles, where Federal Government Agents reviewed them secretly as soon as they had been developed and before they were secured by Ross. These films portrayed such scenes as negroes living in huts in the South, women working in cotton mills and cigarette factories in North Carolina, and Indians living in small tepees.

There were also a number of prints made showing in detail cities like Pittsburgh and Jersey City in which factory sites and bridges were indicated. Ludwig K. Krahforst, 4917 Glacier Drive, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, was employed by Ross to make some pictures in 1939 and later refused to continue his employment because of the obvious un-American nature of the work.

This Committee wishes at this time to clear Mr. Krahforst of any complicity in this matter.

Dr. A.H. Dyckerhoff, an engineer of high standing with the Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago, was asked by Ross to help him secure permission to photograph industrial and agricultural subjects in that part of the Country.

Never suspecting the true purpose of Ross's requests, Dr. Dyckerhoff suggested pictures of TVA, hut strip mills in the steel making area, process of preparing and quick freezing of fruits and vegetables in the fields, etc. Contact was made with officials of the International Harvester Company, Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation. Permission was refused. A few days later Ross was stopped by a policeman for taking pictures (motion) without a permit.

How the Nazi Consuls in this country cooperate with Ross is best shown by the letter of Dr. Otto Denzer, Nazi Vice Consul in Chicago, to Clifton Utley of the Foreign Policy Association of that City, under date of December 16, 1938

in which he states:

"Enclose please find a few biographical data on Colin Ross. May I assure you that if arrangements could be made for his appearance before the Council on Foreign Relations sometime during the first days of January, 1939, this would be highly appreciated."

It should be noted that at his speech Ross was booed and hissed and that among those seated at the speakers table were:

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Ross
Mr. E.L. Baer, Nazi Consul General
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Denner, Nazi Vice Consul
Mr. and Mrs. Hans Strack, connected with Nazi consulate.
Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Plate, head, North German Lloyd Steamship Lines.

And further Ross in his letter to Mr. Utley, under date of December 25, 1938 requests that the following of "My friends" be invited:

Dr. D.B. Phenister, 5621 University Avenue
Professor Dr. Martin Sprengling, 6168 Ellis Avenue
Professor Dr. Nitze, 1220 East 58th Street
Mrs. Swift, 209 Lake Shore Drive
Dr. A.H. Dyckerhoff, Commonwealth Edison Company, 72 West Madison Street
Mr. Tiffany Blake, Chicago Tribune, Tower
Mr. Gustave A. Brand, City Treasurer, City Hall
Governor George L. Schaller, Federal Reserve Bank
Walter S. Straub, 326 Ridge Avenue, Winnetka
Mr. T.A. Buenger, 268 Ridge Avenue, Winnetka.

In that same letter Ross states: "This letter is to confirm my acceptance of your invitation to address the meeting of Chicago Council on Foreign Relations on January 3I had asked the German Consul to let you know that I agree with the arrangements....."

Efforts of the German Consul General in St. Louis, Missouri to arrange a speaking engagement for Ross in that City collapsed when it was discovered by Civic interests that the Nazi Government was participating in the lecture tour. Citizens of St. Louis stopped arrangements for the contemplated lecture by Ross on securing information that the German Consul General had rented an auditorium for the occasion.

In testimony before this committee on August 17, 1939, Fritz Kuhn stated as follows with regard to Dr. Colin Ross:

"The Chairman: Do you know Colin Ross?

Mr. Kuhn: Yes

The Chairman: What office did he have in the Bund?

Mr. Kuhn: He never had an office in the Bund.

The Chairman: Had he no official connection?

Mr. Kuhn: No.

The Chairman: Was he associated with you in any respect?

Mr. Kuhn: I met him one year when he was a speaker at Turner Hall. He was a speaker there but we were not the sponsors.

The Chairman: Do you know where he is now?

Mr. Kuhn: I do not.

The Chairman: That is the only association you have had with Colin Ross?

Mr. Kuhn: Sure."

In this connection it would be noted that in the 1937 year book that Dr. Colin Ross wrote the Frontispiece for the publication. Following is a translation of the Frontispiece of the 1937 German-American Bund Yearbook:

"Our America"

A Man will arise and gather them, a German Thomas Paine. He will not found a new party, no association, no alliance, no union, but will comprise in a matter-of-fact fellowship all who are of German blood, as soon as they become aware of the fact that they are not Americans but "Amerikaner," people of German blood and American soil. They will drop the hyphen that others had attempted to fasten on them and no longer call themselves German-Americans, but simply "Amerikener," a word that is untranslatable.

If these "Amerikaner" become aware, that for America's sake they must not give up their nationality and mother tongue, they lay the foundation for the natural racial order, out of which the American nation of the future will grow, or rather the American family of Nations. This will make America

the first "Continental State," the first continent peacefully united under a uniform idea, the great model for all others.

If the people of German blood succeed in achieving this immense task this greatest service which they can render their new homeland, then they may -- with a slight variation of the words of a German poet ---say:

"America would have been nothing
If we were not Amerikaner
We, Amerikaner, we - !"

And as a father proudly speaks of a child that has reached fame and fortune as "my son," without by these words laying claim to his wealth, so may we say to the New World beyond the Atlantic created in part also by us and in such a way that no one can take it ill of us:

"Our America"

The following report is taken from the original notations made by an American newspaper reporter covering the speech given by Dr. Colin Ross on June 1, 1937.

"Speech of Colin Ross, adventurer and professional speaker, on "Unser Amerika" at a meeting sponsored by the New York Post of the German-American Bund at the Yorkville Casino, June 1. Attendance about 500. He was introduced as a great American who understands the German people. He sailed that night at midnight for Germany.

"America" he said, now is controlled by a few wealthy men. In Germany the people are in control. That is what Hitler has done for the German people. His principles should be applied here so that the Government could be given back to the people. German-Americans should stand united behind the ideals of Germany and educate the American people to those ideals.

"I look about and see Father Divine. He is called 100 per cent American. I meet an Englishman from Boston. He says he is 100 per cent American because the English were here first. French, Hollanders and Germans all say they are 100 per cent Americans. I come to wonder just what a 100 per cent American is. And

I decided he is that man who stands for the best things for the people. That is why followers of Hitler are the real 100 per cent Americans."

Then a group of Bund members presented a play in English, using the court record of the case of Julius Hechfelder against Fritz Kuhn, head of the German-American Bund. The Bund is making great capital out of the fact the case was thrown out of court after six postponements. It was an attempt to prove their paper the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter was circulated without being formally registered. They claim Jewish intrigue was responsible for the case. The audience howled at the impersonation of Jewish lawyers by their fellow Bund members.

The above notations contradict the testimony of Fritz Kuhn in which he states there is no connection between Dr. Colin Ross and the German-American Bund; that Kuhn testified Ross spoke to a meeting in the Turner Hall, whereas he spoke in the Yorkville Casino; that while Kuhn contends the Bund did not sponsor the meeting actually the Bund did promote the gathering and in fact presented a play ridiculing the New York Court Authorities at the same meeting.

In a document secured by this committee inviting American boys to Germany, under arrangements by Dr. Ross, the following paragraphs are found:

The undersigned invites thirty American Boys to visit Germany this summer.

Distance and consequent cost of transportation make mass participation as yet a dream of the future. However, for the first American-German youth exchange steamship companies have offered a substantial reduction of passage fares, some German youth hostels and other accommodations have been reserved exclusively for this summer's party, railroad fares have been reduced to a minimum, free theatre and opera tickets have been presented, so that the all-inclusive cost for transportation from New York back to New York board, tips, etc., of the camping trip through Germany amounts to only \$100.00.

The first exchange vacation trip is limited to 30 American members, ranging in age from 14 to 18. Boys will be selected on the basis of good scholarship,

recommendation, intelligence, high moral character and physical fitness. A slight knowledge of German is desirable, though not mandatory. Only boys personally known to the sponsors or especially recommended by their friends will be selected.

The trip is conducted by Kurt Sprengling, 714 West Indiana Avenue, Urbana, Illinois, (born in Chicago 1916) graduated from Hyde Park High School in Chicago, now graduating from Illinois University; Lieutenant in the Reserve of the U.S. Army. He is the son of Professor Martin Sprengling of the University of Chicago. Under his guidance the boys depart on July 19th on the "Europa" from New York.

Application for membership may be made to any one of the undersigned sponsors:

Mr. Leslie Bissell, Munchen, Dustoucher 4
Reverend and Mrs. Haynes, American Church and Library, Salvatorplatz 1
Prof. and Mrs. von Ikense, Pension Siebert, Kaulbachstr. 22 a
Dr. and Mrs. Edmund E. Miller, Kaulbachstr 12/o
Mr. and Mrs. Colin Ross, Konigstr 29
Mr. and Mrs. du Pont-Ruoff, Wilmington, Delaware-Herrsching
Mrs. L. Stoehr, Kaulbachstr 26 b
Dr. and Mrs. Ludwig Waagen, Konigstr 69
Mrs. von Johnson, Munchen-Bogenhausen, Schalkingstr 3

In an article dealing with "Jews in America" written by Dr. Colin Ross, which appeared in the February 11, 1939 Deutscher Wochruf, official organ of the German-American Bund is found the following statements which have been translated from the German version, "Everyone is aware that the Constitution of the United States does not apply any longer to modern living conditions.

"Every democracy is threatened to glide slowly but surely into Communism. Russia faced that situation. France is facing it now ... Italy and Germany would have faced it too without a Fascist revolution. And England should not think it can get away without a thorough change in its governmental ideas.....

"America isn't a Democracy any more, all wealth is in the hands of a few chiefs. America always escaped a revolution for the reason that the possibilities are in a deadlock now." According to Bismarck - after exhausting all natural resources, a fight will begin, among those who possess and those who lack. And that

is the situation now."

Nazi circular on the Pacific coast have frequently expressed strong interest in the book, "Our America" authored by Dr. Colin Ross, they have stated that this booklet contains much material which proves helpful in building their organization.

The January 1939 issue of "Forum" magazine contains an article entitled "Our America" by S.K. Padover,, in which the author attempts to present the major theses of the Nazi propaganda agency in America, and effect upon population. One portion of the article is headed, "What the Nazis Want", in which it is stated that "Far more significant is the book by an eminent Nazi - Colin Ross' astounding "Unser America", published in Leipsig in 1936. It must be taken as semi-official: in the first place, Ross is an officer of the Propaganda Institute in Stuttgart; second, the organ of the Nazi Party - "Nationalsozialistische Monatschafte" (June, 1938) urges that it be given "the most widespread distribution."

"It is remarkable that this book has escaped attention in the American press. In it Ross recites the arguments we have already reviewed. Then he urges that the 'thirty million Germans in the United States should assert the rights of their blood by every and any means. He is sure of an ultimate victory in the United States because of the collapse of the old Anglo-Saxon ideals of liberty and democracy 'I am convinced that German bloc in the United States will come into its own only after it insists upon it energetically', he writes. 'I believe in the German Hour in America.... The great historic events usually are prepared underground until they suddenly emerge in the open'. Few outsiders, Ross continued, realize how widespread is the German movement. The German rebirth in the United States is more powerful than most people think'.

"Ross states: 'From amongst them (Germans in America) will arise a German Thomas Paine He will unite all of German blood. All will come as soon as they have realized the simple truth that they are not 'Americans' but 'Amerikaner' men of German blood and American soil.....'

"Thus," continues Padover, "the Nazis will save America from 'chaos and barbarism'. Ross reiterates that the Germans have a sacred duty to perform; America is a 'creation of the German spirit', hence the United States must become UNSER AMERIKA....."

In the "Deutscher Wockruf and Beobachter" - issue of December 1, 1939 in column headed "Behind the Curtain" there is included an item, which follows:

"What a pity that our Jewish-controlled circles and natavistic institutions are not allowed to see the wonderful motion pictures which Dr. Colin Ross, the world-traveler, showed a large German-speaking audience at Turner Hall in New York last week - life views of a long series of consecutive scenes depicting the distress of the Sudeten Germans in their flight from Czech terrorism and their arrival on German territoryGerman border-guards greet them, help them and provide them with shelter and food.

"Interspersed with these scenes of wild flight, Dr. Ross shows the ruined homes of the people, a deserted room with a wide breach in the wall, a shell-battered stable with a dead cow .. these pictured incidents of devastation, flight, distress and horror, form the answer to why Hitler threatened to solve the Sudeten German question by force.

".....Gratified looks cast at the Fuehrer by these people; looks of tragedy mingled with joy as the mounted advance guard of the German army marches into the liberated area....It is a pity, we say, that this demonstration cannot be shown to the general public because of the fear that Dr. Ross might be sowing seeds of 'Hitler propaganda' against the huge pro-Jewish propaganda that is sponsored by the press, by Time and other agencies of intellectual demoralization....."

Ross also wrote an article for the German-American Bund paper on October 27, 1939 entitled, "Understanding between Germany and America - Basis for World Peace". This is a two column length article. It should be noted here that Fritz Kuhn is the head of this publication, and that all editorial matter is subject to his approval and that he so stated in recent testimony before this Committee. It should also be noted that in the above quotation from the Wockruf of December 1, 1938, that the Turner Hall referred to in the article was at that time the headquarters of the German-American Bund, Manhattan Post. These facts again refute the testimony of Fritz Kuhn referred to herein, in which he denies any affiliation with Ross.

In the Wockruf of January 19, 1939, page 4, is an item entitled "Colin Ross in the Lion's Den".....

"German Author and Traveler Single-Handed Faces the Storm Troopers of the Foreign Policy Association."

Article- "It must be assumed that the audience last Saturday at the meeting of the Foreign Policy Association, at the Hotel Astor, New York, where the thesis of 'Germany Inside and Out' was booked for discussion, was a representative body of many of our best average citizens, typifying a degree of intelligence impartial in its judgement of the subject. This theory is not wholly tenable in view of the shocked 'cha' and the noisy demonstration of dissent at such assertions as that there is NO SUPPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN GERMANY.

"On the speaker's rostrum sat such notable refugees, representatives of fair dealing, as Heins Liepman and Gerhart H. Segar, who left a delectable record of political activities behind them when they left Germany and have already begun to play a prominent role in regimenting public opinion in this country in conformity with their philosophy.....

"In this atmosphere, thick with anti-German bias, Colin Ross had apparently been selected to act as a foil for the attacks on Hitler and Germany, by John C. deWilde, research associate of the F.P.A. and Ernest Wilhelm Meyer, formerly a Secretary of the German Embassy in Washington.....

"A great 'oh' of protest went up when Ross initiated his remarks with the statement - 'I love Hitler'..... A burst of indignation greeted his categorical statement that there is no religious interference in Germany, derisive laughter when he predicted that there will be no war in Europe in five, ten or twenty years....."

The Chicago-American, January 4, 1939, printed the following headed "Swifts, Mitzes Entertain Ross, Nazi Propagandist", column conducted by the "Chaperon".

The Charles H. Swifts, William H. Mitzes, Dallas B. Phamisters and the E.V.L. Brewns, all of whom have extended the hospitality of their tables to the visting Nazi propagandist, Colin Ross

and to Mrs. Ross, have been choosing their dinner guests with care on the nights they entertained the Rosses. Anti-Nazi sentiment being what it is, not every one can be trusted to stay on an even keel conversationally, even on such social occasions as a dinner party.

"During their Chicago stay Mr. Ross, the speaker at yesterday's Council on Foreign Relations luncheon, and Mrs. Ross, are the house guests of Dr. Martin Spengling, professor of Semitic languages at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute.....

Mr. Ross is of Scottish descent as his name suggests. In certain parts of Scotland Colin is the name conferred on all the eldest sons. But he was born in Vienna and lived there under Dollfuss and Schussnigg. But because traveling and writing about the travels in his profession, he has never lived in any one place longer than five years. Three times previously he and his wife have been to Chicago, the last time for an extended stay while Ross was writing his book, "Unser Amerika". During that time his son and daughter attended the University of Chicago.

".....Laird Bell of the Council on Foreign Relations stated in part - "We have sought all year for a speaker for the Nazi regime and it has been very difficult to get one." Mr. Ross proved an effective spokesman for the Nazi regime. Because he was patently not the Germanic type, and speaks his broken English with seeming naivete and a determined good nature which refuses to be ruffled by the 'ribbing' of his audience, he probably was more effective than another type of propagandist would have been. But it is doubtful if he made any converts among the 1200 who heard him. Those who, like Mrs. Swift and Mrs. Mize, gathered around him later to express their ardent agreement with his sentiments, were of the same mind before they came....."

With reference to the activities of Ross on the Pacific Coast it has been learned by this Committee that all his movements were carefully watched by various Federal Agencies.

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