

Welles Says Persecution Was Shock To America

Nazi Demand for U. S. Apology Rejected as Impudence

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 (UP).—The United States has firmly rejected a German protest over a speech by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes with a stinging rebuke which warned the Hitler government to put its own house in order before criticizing Americans, Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles disclosed today.

The protest was lodged with Welles yesterday by Hans Thomsen, charge d'affaires at the German Embassy.

Thomsen demanded in effect that the United States apologize for Ickes' remarks, made in a speech at Cleveland last Sunday in which he criticized Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, Henry Ford and other Americans for accepting decorations from dictators. He said also that Germany's persecution of the Jews had carried the nation "back to a period when man was unlettered, benighted and bestial."

A summary of the points raised by Welles in rejecting the German protest follows:

1 Attacks by the German press and officials on President Roosevelt and his Cabinet and on the late President Woodrow Wilson.

2 Ickes' speech represented the feeling of an overwhelming majority of the American people.

3 Refused apology by the United States because the protest is considered as having no propriety and being ill-graced.

4 The recent policies of the Nazi government have shocked and confounded American public opinion more profoundly than anything in a decade.

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Welles declared that the United States is unable to accept the protest, which it described as having no propriety and being ill-graced.

He said he informed Thomsen that Ickes' remarks represented the feeling of an overwhelming majority of the American people and added pointedly that recent policies of the Nazi government had confounded American public opinion more profoundly than anything in many decades.

As a coup de main he called Thomsen's attention to bitter attacks by the German press, which he described as under the influence and dictation of German authorities, on President Roosevelt and members of his Cabinet and more recently on the late President Woodrow Wilson.

He told Thomsen that the Hitler government must realize that Wilson's memory is revered in this country and that derogatory at-

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