

# Nazis Set Ickes Repudiation as Price of Amity

## No Hope of Better Relations While U.S. Supports Him, Official Press Unit Says

By Ralph W. Barnes

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

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BERLIN, Dec. 30.—The German official news agency, Deutsches Nachrichtenburo, asserted today that so long as the United States State Department defended the attacks of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes upon the Nazi regime an improvement in relations between the two countries was impossible.

At the same time, after several days of near-silence on German-American relations, the Nazi press broke out again tonight in a violent rash of attacks on the United States and its leading personalities. These attacks accompanied a belated disclosure to the German public in streamer headlines that the Nazi government had registered in Washington "the sharpest sort of protest" against the speech Ickes made in Cleveland on December 18. However, no mention was made of the fact that the protest was lodged eight days ago.

The D. N. B. observation on the present status of relations between Washington and Berlin came in the form of an inspired communique captioned: "In Service of Jewish Interests! State Department Defends the Unqualified Attacks of Secretary of Interior Ickes. Improvement in Relations Between Two Countries Impossible Under These Circumstances." Yet in the text of the news agency comment the move of Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles in sharply rejecting the German protest was dismissed in a passage which read: "The American State Department failed to disclaim re-

sponsibility for the remarks of Ickes, as is customary in such cases in international relations. In fact, it defended them."

### United States Stand Played Down

From this passage, it is clear that although the Nazi authorities desire to convey the impression to the German people that they have taken a strong stand in Washington, they have no desire to divulge how firm a position the United States government has assumed in reply.

Headlines in "Voelkischer Beobachter," the newspaper of Chancellor Adolf Hitler, read: "Put an End to This Hysterical Agitation Against German People—United States Government Under Jewish Pressure—Irritation Over Failure at Lima—Background of American Agitation for War Laid Bare."

In line with these headlines, the Nazi press en masse attributes Washington's position, first, to the alleged failure of the United States program at the Pan-American Conference at Lima, Peru, and, second, to the desire of President Roosevelt to push his armament program through Congress. Basing its view on these points, the newspaper "Lokal Anzeiger" openly accused the Washington government of conducting agitation preparatory to "breaking off relations" between the United States and Germany. The newspaper added:

"There can be no talk of improvement in relations between Germany and the United States until the American people frees its government from the ruinous influence of power politics and politics infested with Jewish agitation, and provides for those personalities who have better insight into Europe than the present government the freedom of developing their good will."

### Recalls "Wilsonian Debacle"

In its attacks on Roosevelt "Voelkischer Beobachter" made no attempt to mince words. "Does Roosevelt desire to exercise police surveillance over the entire world?" it asked, adding that "certain members of the United States government desire to divide nations into the righteous and the unrighteous. Professor Woodrow Wilson did the same, and one might expect that Americans had learned enough from the Wilsonian debacle."

Making a special exception of "the 5,000,000 Jews" in the United States, "Voelkischer Beobachter" asserted that "125,000,000 decent Americans would consider it a service to their country to have the United States government find the courage to resume again normal relations with Germany." The newspaper added that "the German people want to live in peace and quiet with the American people and cannot believe that they [the American people] subscribe to this hysterical and provocative policy as carried on in Washington."

Despite harsh words, such as some of those used by "Voelkischer Beobachter," it seems fairly clear from Nazi press comment in general that Hitler's regime has no desire to see relations between Germany and the United States deteriorate further, even though for reasons of domestic policy it finds it necessary to instruct

the controlled press to employ strong words.

### Text of D. N. B. Release

BERLIN, Dec. 30 (AP).—The D. N. B. communique issued today dealing with Germany's protest against attacks by Secretary Ickes follows:

"The Minister of the Interior of the United States Ickes delivered a speech before the Zionist Society in Cleveland shortly before Christmas in which, in connection with thrusts at the Third Reich, he attacked its leadership in an unwarrantable manner.

"The German Charge d'Affaires in Washington [Dr. Hans Thomsen] presented the sharpest protest on account of these attacks to the American Vice-Foreign Minister [Acting Secretary of State Welles].

"The American Foreign Office, however, did not—as is a matter of self-evident procedure otherwise in matters of this kind in international relations—disassociate itself from the utterances of the American Minister of the Interior, but tried to defend them.

"It must therefore be stated that as long as such a procedure, which obviously serves Jewish interests and leaves out of account the real German-American interests, continues in the conduct of relations of the United States of North America with Germany, the hope expressed by the American Foreign Office to the German Charge d'Affaires or an improvement of mutual relationships lacks every foundation."

The newspaper "Voelkischer Beobachter," commenting on German-American relations, said:

"We would have to judge the present policy of Washington more seriously if we were not convinced that Jewish inciters to war will, in the last analysis, be unmasked after all and that safely thinking men

are at work to prevent America from being drawn into a catastrophe."

### Borah Heads Roll of Honor

"Voelkischer Beobachter" then cited the names of a number of Americans it said were "turning against the dangerous cry of threatening invasion." Those named included Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, and Representative Hamilton Fish, of New York, Republicans, and Senators Alva B. Adams, of Colorado; Burton K. Wheeler, of Montana, and Bennett Champ Clark, of Missouri, Democrats, whom it described as "all realistic men from the Middle West." It asked the Roosevelt administration to remember that Middle Western farmers always decided issues in Congress.

With them it contrasted Ickes as a friend of the Jews, as a provocateur and as a supporter of the Civil Liberties Union, which was described as "the most important auxiliary troop for Jewish Communism in the United States of America."

### State Department Silent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP).—State Department officials received in silence today the statement published in Berlin that hope for improved relations between Germany and the United States "lacked every foundation" as long as the State Department defended Secretary Ickes.

It was noted, however, that the department had given no indication that it had expressed hope to Germany for improved mutual relations. On the contrary, Acting Secretary of State Welles warned Charge d'Affaires Thomsen last week that as long as German attacks on United States officials continued, there was no reason to expect cessation of such attacks in this country upon Germany.

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