

Germany Condemns Failure of U. S. To Disavow Ickes for His Speech

Declares There Is No Hope of Improving Relations Unless State Department Alters Its Ways—Washington Not Moved

By GUIDO ENDERIS

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—For the first time since Germany lodged its protest ten days ago with the United States State Department against Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, the Reich Government tonight admitted the action and announced that betterment in German-American relations could not be achieved so long as the procedure adopted by the State Department in this connection was continued.

That procedure, says the German Government statement, manifestly seeks to "serve Jewish interests but ignores German-American relations." The communiqué indirectly accuses the State Department of undiplomatic practice and asserts it even sought to defend Mr. Ickes instead of disavowing him.

It makes no reference to the contents of Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles's reply to Hans Thomsen, German Chargé d'Affaires at Washington. The communiqué follows:

American Secretary of the Interior Ickes delivered an address before the Zionist society in Cleveland shortly before Christmas, in which he not only gravely reproached the Third Reich but also attacked its leadership in an unqualified manner. The German chargé d'affaires in Washington thereupon lodged a sharp protest against these attacks with the Acting Secretary of State.

The American State Department, in contradiction to the self-understood procedure in such cases, did not, however, undertake to dissociate itself from the utterances of the Secretary of the Interior, but attempted to defend them.

It is to be noted, therefore, that so long as a procedure is to be followed which manifestly serves Jewish interests but ignores German-American relations, hopes for the betterment of those relations as expressed by the American State Department to the German chargé are wholly without foundation.

The communiqué affords the Ger-

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man press a fresh opportunity to advert to attacks upon Mr. Ickes and Senator Key Pittman, and the opportunity is liberally exploited. The bulk of the comment traverses the stormy course of German-American relations since the advent of the National Socialist regime and uniformly ends on a familiar note—the assertion that the United States Government is under "Jewish pressure."

Amplification of the contents of the government's communiqué was not made available at the Foreign Office tonight. The only explanation of its publication at this stage is the suspicion that it was intended to influence American opinion on the eve of the opening session of the new Congress.

A German Government spokesman said the communiqué as such spoke for itself. Its sole purpose, he added, was to register the Reich's impatience with the manner in which German-American relations were being made a matter of secondary consideration through the rejection of the German protest against Mr. Ickes's speech.

The State Department's procedure in that connection, it is charged, deliberately violated accepted diplomatic usage in that it peremptorily disregarded a formal protest on the ground of wholly extraneous issues. Mr. Ickes's position as a member of the Federal Government is held to have given the Reich the justification for a diplomatic protest that was lacking in the cases of Mayor La Guardia and Cardinal Mundelein, who, it is recognized, do not possess an official status.

The German attacks on Senator Pittman are buttressed with the assertion that he spoke in his capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The official view of the communiqué takes the position that it frankly demands a different approach to the German-American impasse than that now adopted by the State Department. The German contention is that German-American relations are a thing apart from anti-German baiting and that their restoration to a normal state is sincerely desired by the Reich.

The present slump in those relations, it is argued, is wholly due to a partisan campaign of petty polemics and bickering for which a small American minority is held re-

sponsible. The German press assumes that a preponderant body of responsible American opinion is wholly out of sympathy with the anti-German campaign and apparently envisages some manifestation of its sentiments in the forthcoming Congressional debates.

Hans H. Dieckhoff, Germany's recalled Ambassador to the United States, is absent from Berlin, and it could not be ascertained whether he had been consulted on the government's statement. While its text and tenor may not square with the government's avowal that it wished

to observe a holiday truce, a Foreign Office spokesman rejected the inference that the statement might not facilitate a speedy return of the two idle Ambassadors to their respective posts.

The fundamental purpose of the official statement, it was stressed, was to impress the State Department with the necessity of seeking an approach to the present impasse along strictly diplomatic lines. Such an approach, it is assumed here, should disregard such extraneous intervening factors as "Jewish agitation" and habitual strictures on dictatorships.

Washington Is Unchanged

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The State Department saw no occasion today for renewing the controversy with Germany over the issues that have flowed from Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes's Cleveland speech of Dec. 18 because of the statement issued in Berlin today and the observations of the Nazi press.

Reports indicated that this was the first attention given publicly in the Reich to the rejection of the German protest by the United States, and officials were inclined at this juncture to regard the outburst as of domestic rather than international significance.

There was no support here for German press reports that Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State, in his conversation with Hans Thomsen, German Chargé d'Affaires, on Dec. 21, when the protest was rejected, had expressed a desire for an improvement in German-American relations and had sought to gloss over the attack of Secretary Ickes on Germany. On the contrary, it was learned at the State Department that all the important points in the conversation were given to the press here next day by Mr. Welles. The department had nothing to add to that account today.

Mr. Welles, in his conversation with Herr Thomsen, pointed to the German press attacks on President Roosevelt and American Cabinet officers. While expressing the personal belief that public recriminations in any country against another country were not conducive to good relations, he declared that Germany could not continue her attacks and not expect attacks of the same character to continue here. He asserted that the great majority of the American people had been shocked by recent events in Germany and that Secretary Ickes had reflected accurately that feeling.

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