

Nazi Diplomat Denies Coming Here to Buy U. S. Oil Property Says Mission Is Purely Personal Financial One, in Interview

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Has Had Inquiries.
"Mr. Farish stated that several times in the last year we have had inquiries as to whether or not we would sell our German subsidiary and our Hungarian subsidiary. These feelers for sale never developed to any conclusion and we are unable to say whether they were genuine or not. We have never been approached by any one concerning the Rumanian property."

"Standard's attitude toward the sale of their property in Germany and Hungary is that if a satisfactory price can be had and the sale is not disapproved by our Government * * * they would be glad to turn the value of these properties into American dollars. For many months now, Mr. Farish stated, they have had no control from New York of the operations of these two companies and for years have not been able to get dividends out of these companies."

Denied Official Assignment.

The Herald Tribune quoted Dr. Rieth as denying he had any official assignment in this country, but reported from other sources "that Dr. Rieth's major objective was an attempt to arrange for the sale to the Reich at a cash price of around \$25,000,000 the Hungarian subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey known as Maort."

Dr. Rieth asserted he was here to see about some property owned by two sisters, the Herald Tribune said.

While in South America, the Herald Tribune said, Dr. Rieth assisted in the formation of the American Abstention Committee, composed of two Japanese, an Italian and a German.

"The real aim of the committee is to hinder the application of the lease-lend bill by every means, from propaganda to more direct methods," the Herald Tribune said.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 24.—Dr. Kurt Rieth, former German diplomat whom the New York Herald-Tribune said was in this country buying "rich American-owned oil properties in Eastern Europe, now almost valueless to citizens of the United States," said today his visit here was a "purely personal financial mission."

The 59-year-old German added that his mission had no connection with affairs of the Nazi Reich and that there should be no public interest in his personal affairs.

In a telephone interview from his suite at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Dr. Rieth said he entered this country March 22 at Brownsville, Tex., after a trip from Germany via South America and Mexico because it was "the only course I could pursue to get to the United States." He added that he had "no financial or diplomatic relations" in South America.

The Herald Tribune said that on crossing the American border he gave "as a future destination the office of Walter C. Teagle, chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey," in New York City and that he had used Mr. Teagle's name as a friend at several banks and financial firms.

Denies Knowing Rieth.

W. S. Farish, president of the oil company, authorized this statement: "Mr. Farish stated that he did not know Dr. Kurt Rieth, had never seen him and that so far as he knew no one in his organization in authority today knew him, and that no one had been approached by Dr. Rieth, and that no one had any knowledge of his trying to approach him."

"Some six weeks or two months ago they had heard from the F. B. I. that Dr. Rieth had entered the United States at Brownsville and had used Mr. Teagle's name and his address at the Standard Oil office when entering the United States. Mr. Teagle told me that he did not know him, that the gentleman had never approached him or tried to see him, and the use of his name in connection with Dr. Rieth was wholly unauthorized. We have no knowledge of Dr. Rieth, why he is here, for what purpose and none of our people has had any contact with him."