

DW
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Wider Nazi Spy Plot Here Seen in Naming Of New Hitler Consul

Appointment of Fritz Weidemann to Frisco Post Part of Espionage Plan in U. S.; Was Tied to Spy Plot in U. S. Trial; Met Vandenberg

Hitler is determined to increase the scope of Nazi spy and propaganda activity in the United States.

That fact, it is believed here, lies behind the appointment of Captain Fritz Weidemann, Hitler's personal aide, to replace Baron Mannfried von Killinger as Consul-General in San Francisco.

Wiedemann was mentioned several times in the course of the recent round-up, trial and conviction of Nazi agents by Federal authorities in New York as an important figure in the German plot to undermine and destroy the armed strength of the nation.

The most significant testimony concerning Wiedemann came from Guenther Rumrich, confessed conspirator. On the witness stand in U. S. Court last October 18, Rumrich declared, under the questioning of Assistant United States Attorney Lester C. Dunigan, that late in November or early in December, 1937, Karl Weigand, alias Theodore Scheutz, Berlin Military Intelligence officer operating on the German liner New York, called him to a conference in the Hotel Taft.

"He (Weigand) said he'd just come from Washington and showed me a picture taken in the Embassy there and said he had gone there to see Fritz Wiedemann, Hitler's personal adjutant," Rumrich told the court.

The spy added that the picture depicted Weigand, Wiedemann and Hans Deickhoff, the ambassador, together.

Wiedemann docked in New York Nov. 26, 1937. He was met by demonstrators carrying banners asking

that "the Nazi killer be kept out of the United States."

Coming to American soon after President Roosevelt's famous Chicago speech, in which the nation's leader called for the quarantine of aggressors, Wiedemann's job was to confer with the Liberty League gang on joint action against the New Deal as well as to check up on Hitler's spy-propaganda apparatus.

MET WITH VANDENBERG

The Daily Worker at that time exposed, and the Wall Street press suppressed, the fact that Wiedemann's principal appointment was with Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, who was then and is now a Tory Republican 1940 hope.

Wiedemann plans to extend these connections between Hitler Germany and un-American reactionary circles from the vantage point of his new post. The United Press reports that he told newspapermen in Berlin yesterday, "I feel sure that I will enjoy the cooperation of American circles in my efforts."

Wiedemann, who was Hitler's captain in the World War, has been charged with many such missions. He helped organize the Hooded Cagoulard conspiracy to overthrow the government of France.

Wiedemann was one of those who