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XLVI. Closing of German and Italian Consulates in the United States

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. IV, No. 104, June 21, 1941)

The following note from the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Sumner Welles, was sent to the German Chargé d'Affaires, Herr Hans Thomsen:

“JUNE 16, 1941.

“SIR:

“It has come to the knowledge of this Government that agencies of the German Reich in this country, including German consular establishment, have been engaged in activities wholly outside the scope of their legitimate duties. These activities have been of an improper and unwarranted character. They render the continued presence in the United States of those agencies and consular establishments inimical to the welfare of this country.

“I am directed by the President to request that the German Government remove from United States territory all German nationals in anywise connected with the German Library of Information in New York, the German Railway and Tourists Agencies, and the Trans-Ocean News Service, and that each of these organizations and their affiliates shall be promptly closed.

“I am also directed to request that all German consular officers, agents, clerks, and employees thereof of German nationality shall be removed from American territory and that the consular establishments likewise be promptly closed.

“It is contemplated that all such withdrawals and closures shall be effected before July 10.

“Accept [etc.]

For the Secretary of State:
SUMNER WELLES”

The following note has been sent by the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Sumner Welles, to the Italian Ambassador, Don Ascanio dei principi Colonna:

“JUNE 20, 1941.

“EXCELLENCY:

“I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the President has directed me to request that the Italian Government promptly close all Italian consular establishments within United States territory and remove therefrom all Italian consular officers, agents, clerks, and employees of Italian nationality. In the opinion of the Government of the United States it is obvious that the continued functioning of Italian consular establishments in territory of the United States would serve no desirable purpose.

“I am likewise directed to request the closing of all agencies in this country connected with the Italian Government, together with the cessation of their activities, and, furthermore, the removal of all Italian nationals in any way connected with organizations of the Italian Government in the United States, with the exception of its duly accredited representation in Washington.

“It is contemplated that all such withdrawals and closures shall be effected before July 15, 1941.

“Accept [etc.]

For the Secretary of State:

SUMNER WELLES”