



~~SECRET~~ 37/10/39

~~SECRET~~

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: German Consul holds meetings in Wellington and Auckland.

100,000/8/38-8709]

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/39.

6th April, 1939.

~~SECRET~~
Colonel Sir Vernon Kell,
Box No. 500,
Parliament Street, B.O.,
L O N D O N, S.W.1.

Dear Sir Vernon,

In connection with Nazi activities you may care to have a note regarding meetings held in Wellington and Auckland on the 21st and 27th ultimo respectively at which resident and visiting German nationals and one or two British subjects met at the request of the German Consul, Herr E. Ramm, as a result of the recent international tension.

From the information received by this Department from secret sources it is apparent that Herr Ramm was endeavouring to allay any uneasiness which his compatriots in New Zealand might feel and to favourably represent Germany's case, which he urged should be repeated to their British friends. The people in New Zealand he stated were not as well informed of the position as those in Britain who had the advantage of listening to German broadcasts and were not dependent on the misleading statements appearing in the Press.

There was a total of only fifty persons at the two meetings, and from the reports submitted to me it can be said many of them were indifferent.

Yours sincerely,

*File 10
min 5-4-39*
DJO
Commissioner of Police.

SECRET
37 / 10/39

SECRET

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 29 th March, 1939

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to German Club, Auckland - meeting addressed by
Herr Ramm, German Consul-General, on night of 27/3/39.
"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that attached hereto is a report which I asked my informant within the German Club to submit.. It deals with the meeting held in the Club rooms on the night of 27/3/39 and which was called at the express wish of the Consul, Herr Ramm, vide my report of 22/3/39.

The last three lines of the report, beneath the letter [redacted] need some further explanation.

Referring to the meeting that he held at Wellington on the evening of the 21 st inst. the Consul stated here in Auckland, that he had been asked over the 'phone about the reason for the meeting. He suggested that this inquiry was from the police. He also said that a policeman was outside the door of the Wellington meeting and that he was there to see who went in.

The Consul said, that from these facts he believed that someone close to him was supplying the police with information.

The following members of the Club were present at the meeting =

Jonathan Blumhardt; David Blumhardt; K.W.Schmidt and wife, Max Grapengiesser and wife; Gustav Belin and wife; A.Zimmer and wife; Peter Miller; A.R.Leuschke and wife; Mrs Williams (an Austrian); Otter Hagen; Johann Dansinger; Gregor Reitchmayer; Henry C.Engel; E.Langguth and wife and son, Hans Braunias; a Mr and Mrs Williams; a Mr and Mrs Aberle; a Bavarian named Bleeker; two brothers named Graaf.

Card destroyed 2/11/42

All these names have been previously mentioned as members of the Club with the exception of the last four.

Also present were two British people - W.J.McMillan and Miss Winifred D'O.

Card destroyed 26/11/42

E.A. Stevenson

Det. 2627.

The Chief Detective, Auckland.

*The Hon. Min. of Police
To see Insp Ward
Humming
5.4.39*

Insp Ward

Forwarded

M. B. O'Leary

*Det Sgt
29.3.39*

To be the Supt

The Commissioner

29.3.39 R. Ward Supt

*J. Humming
Supt
29.3.39*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

A meeting was held in the German Club Rooms Monday
27-3-39
night. There were about 36 present, by invitation. The meeting was addressed by the Consul. He spoke on the situation in Europe. Most of his matter was based on statements made by Dr. Goebbels. He deplored the obvious ill feeling between Britain and Germany caused by the methods of the British Press in mis-stating the situation as he saw it. He pointed out that the re-armament policy of Britain would lead to worse relationships as it was obviously directed against Germany. He also referred to the various trade treaties that Germany had made with neighbouring countries including Roumania, Holland, Belgium and the recently occupied Slovakia. He pointed out also that Hitler had promised that there would be peace and he was of the opinion that the Fuehrer would do his utmost to maintain peace, and if War should arise, it would be due to the opposing Powers. He mentioned the developing antagonism in Britain which he attributed to propaganda and mis-representation by the newspapers. He also gave the opinion that the Public in Britain were much better informed than here owing to the fact that they received radio broadcasts from Germany easier.

The German National Anthems were sung and it was noticeable that many of the naturalised Germans did not give the Nazi salute. The whole tone of the meeting seemed to indicate that he desired as far as possible to stop any tendency in the German community to break away from their sentimental attachments to Germany and to reassure them with regard to any fears that they might have re immediate War .

██████████
Owing to the meeting being known in Wellington, the Consul suspects that somebody in his household or employ is supplying information to the Police.



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: German Club, Auckland ; and Nazi activities.

100,000/11/30-14031

Insp Ward

Forwarded please

A. M. Hugh

Det Sgt

22/3/39

For to the Capt

R. Ward

by
The Commissioner

A report will be
furnished after the
meeting on Monday
27 March

J. Cunningham

Superintendent

25/3/39

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 22 nd March, 193 9

REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to German Club, Auckland ; and Nazi activities.

I respectfully report that at 5-15 p.m on the 21 st inst. I was in telephonic communication with Detective Harding at the Commissioner's office, Wellington.

I was informed by Detective Harding that an important meeting of German nationals was believed to have been called by the German Consul, to be held in Wellington at 5 p.m that day... I was asked if I knew anything of this in Auckland or whether any Germans had left Auckland to attend this meeting at Wellington.

I informed Detective Harding that I had no knowledge of this and that so far as I knew none of the Germans most prominent in the German Club here were absent from Auckland.

The Limited express from Wellington was met here this morning by my informant within the German Club but no member of the Club or local Nazi Party member or sympathiser disembarked from the train.

The following reliable information may have some connection with the information possessed in the Commissioner's office.

During the afternoon of the 21 st inst. the German Consul - Herr Ernst Ramm telephoned from Wellington to Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt - the Nazi leader in Auckland.... He instructed Schmidt to arrange a meeting in the German clubrooms for Monday evening, the 27 th inst. As far as possible all German nationals and Germans who have become naturalized British subjects are to be present.



The object of the meeting is to explain to Germans the position - from a German point of view - of the present critical European situation. The Consul sent a message to Germans not to be panicked by current happenings, as within a few days matters would settle down again.

Herr Ramm is coming to Auckland especially for this meeting and will address it.

He also instructed Schmidt to cancel his booking for the Grand Hotel and to reserve him accomodation at the Royal Hotel... My informant surmises that the Jewish interests in Hancock and Co. may have some bearing on this.

A report will be submitted as to what transpires at this meeting... It may be that the meeting held at Wellington yesterday was of a similar nature.

E.A. Stevenson
Det. 2627.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

6. 27/10



NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: NAZI MEETING AT THE GERMAN CONSUL-GENERAL'S OFFICE ON THE 21st March, 1939.

100,000/11/36-14051

The Inspector,

Please see Detective Sergeant Doyle's report attached.

W. Trickett

Detective Sergeant for Chief Detective.

4-4-39

*The Supt.
Gracey
454
4 APR 1939*

*The Commissioner,
J. Lewis
4, 4, 39*

Gill

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

NEW ZEALAND POLICE. [Police—100A.

Detective Office,

Police-station: Wellington,

Date: 4th April, 193 9

REPORT of Detective Sergeant P. Doyle, No. 1337

relative to the meeting of German's at the German Consul-
General's office, Featherston Chambers on the 21st March, 1939

I beg to report that since furnishing my secret report of the 20th ultimo, I have continued discreet enquiries, with the object of ascertaining the names of those present and the nature of the proceedings, and I find that in addition to Josef Gillitzer and Walter Kiessling, and their wives, referred to in my former report, the following attended:-

Captain H. Freese of S.S. Frankfort which was in port at the time, and his Chief Officer Karl Timmermann

Nothing is known here regarding these men, and they have not previously come under notice.

✓ Franza O. Harte and his brother H. F. Harte, importers of "Victoria House" Victoria Street, Wellington.

Apart from being Nazi supporters, nothing is known regarding these men.

✓ William Block, manager of the diningroom at Hotel St George.

Block has been in New Zealand about 14 years, and came to Wellington from Auckland last October. He is a particularly good man in his own line of business and not too favourably disposed towards the Nazi doctrine.

He was summoned to the meeting by the Consul-General and went there more or less under compulsion.

✓ Otto Sommer, wool buyer, Hotel Waterloo, a regular attendant at the wools sales in the Dominion for many years, and a strong Nazi.

✓ Bruno Beyer, wool buyer, Hotel Waterloo, also a regular visitor to the Dominion annually for the wool sales, a Nazi supporter.

✓ --Rhodias, also a wool buyer at that time staying at the Hotel Waterloo. Nothing known about this man.

✓ Franz Leonhard, wool buyer, also at the Hotel Waterloo a regular buyer at the Dominion wool sales, and a strong Nazi supporter.

✓ E. Houff, wool buyer, Hotel Waterloo, has not previously come under notice, but said to be a strong supporter of Hitler.

✓ --Carichen, wool buyer and his assistant, name unknown both staying at the Hotel Waterloo at that time, and neither has previously come under notice.

In addition to those referred to, the Consul-General and his assistant Kessells and their staff of two German girls were present.

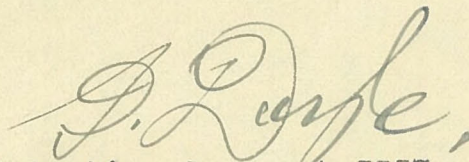
The Chief Detective,
Wellington.

In my previous report, I mentioned that 18 men and two women had entered the building just before 5 p.m. I am now unable to account for more than 14 men, excluding the Consul and his assistant, and it would appear that the other two men probably entered some other office in that building and were not associated with the Nazi meeting.

All those present had to stand to attention, and give the Nazi salute.

The object of the meeting was to convey to those present that Germany had no intention of invading Roumania, and the Consul-General impressed on those present the necessity of informing their British friends that Germany was only protecting the German majorities in the action she had taken, and that everything would be amicably settled with Britain and France within the next few weeks, and that war with Britain would not eventuate.

In my previous report, I referred in particular to Walter Kiessling as a dangerous Nazi, and mentioned that I would report further in regard to this man's movements. He is still in the employ of Niven and Co as a Bosch magneto mechanic, and he resides at Dixon Street with his wife, but he is expected to return to Melbourne sometime this month, a report in connection with which I will submit later.



Detective Sergeant 1337.



~~SECRET~~

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: A meeting of German people at Cowell
General's office, Featherston Street on 21-3-39

100,000/9/37-10050

For to the Inspector.
W. Friesleben
Det. Sgt. 1496
Chief Detective
24. 3. 39

~~Secret~~

The Supt
449 Jones
by 27/3/39

Sourd. to the Commissioner.
J. Lewis Dupt.
24. 3. 39

The Superintendent of Police,
WELLINGTON.

The Navy Office advise that
the hotel referred to in their infor-
mation, vide last paragraph pf Detective
-Sergeant Doyle's report, is the St.
George. The previous information was
given in error. The photographs of
Gillitzer have been retained at this
office.

Commissioner of Police,
29-3-39.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.]

Detective Office,

Police-station: Wellington,

Date: 26th March, 1939

REPORT of Detective Sergeant P. Doyle, No. 1337

relative to a meeting of German people at the Consul-General's office, Featherston Chambers on the 21st instant.

I beg to report that Detective Sergt McLennan and I kept the Consul General's office under observation from 4-45 p.m. to 6-15 p.m. on the 21st instant and observed a number of men enter the office just before 5 p.m.

The number seen entering the office included eight men and two women, but at 6-15 p.m. 18 men and two women left, not including the Consul General Herr Ernst Ramm and his Secretary or assistant Consul Hubert Kessells.

The latter two were the last to leave.

It is impossible to ascertain the nature of their business with the Consul-General, but judging from their demeanour when leaving it was evident that they were in a happy mood, and the Nazi salute was given and returned as they parted from each other outside.

They did not leave in a body, but two or three at a time emerged from the building and lost no time in dispersing, and then proceeded in different directions.

Apart from the Consul-General and his Secretary the others were strangers to me, but I would recognize them again.

I have ascertained that Josef Gillitzer and Walter Kiessling accompanied by their wives were among those present, and that accounts for the two women.

Gillitzer is a Bosch magneto expert in the employ of Niven and Co, Taranaki Street, who came to the Dominion on the 11th May, 1938 under a five years engagement, and he resides with his wife and child at Khandallah next door to the Power station.

He was granted a permit to remain in New Zealand for the time stated. I managed to procure his photograph through the assistance of a person whom I can trust, who obtained it from a file kept by Gillitzer, and copies of this photograph have been taken by the Criminal Registration Branch.

Walter Kiessling is a Bosch magneto mechanic also in the employ of Niven and Co, and he arrived in the Dominion from Melbourne by the Westralia on the 23rd November, 1938 on loan from Pyrox Proprietary Ltd, Melbourne a company managed by one Hoette, a naturalized German who has lived in Australia for many years.

He was granted a permit I766 to remain for 6 months from the 23rd November, 1938.

The latter is an ardent Nazi supporter, and since his arrival here has been in daily communication with the Assistant Consul Kessells, who calls frequently to consult Kiessling at his work.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

Chief Detective,
Wellington.

I am also informed reliably that this man has interested himself in ~~the~~ matters pertaining to the defence of the Dominion, and spends his spare time taking photographs in and around the city, accompanied by his wife, on a motor cycle.

If my information is reliable, and I have no reason to think otherwise, Kiessling is a man worth watching, but on the other hand it is difficult to see what damage he can do in time of peace but in the event of Great Britain being involved in war with Germany a man of this description should receive immediate attention.

I understand he is an expert in his trade, and like all employees of the Bosch firm is exempted from military service in time of war.

Niven and Co are terminating his contract, and he will be leaving the Dominion early next month for Melbourne, the date of his departure will be reported by me.

His associate, Gillitzer, will remain here, provided peace with Germany is maintained, but from the conversation this man has had with one of the principals of his firm, it is clear that he anticipates trouble between the two countries in the very near future and has hinted that he would like to be released from his contract, so that he would be free to return to Germany in preference to being treated as a prisoner. That is how he approached his employer on the matter.

Gillitzer is not regarded in the light of a dangerous Nazi but his companion Kiessling is looked upon with grave suspicion by those who are in a position to judge his character.

It was suggested by the Naval authorities that the Post and Telegraph Department might be in a position to ascertain the nature of the business transacted at the Consul-General's office during the evening of the 21st instant, and in consequence, I saw Mr Young, Director-General, Post and Telegraph Department, but he could not undertake the tampering with mail matter, nor could he obtain anything of importance by checking up on telegrams, as practically all telegrams dispatched by the Consul were in code. He, however, was prepared to assist provided we could definitely refer him to a particular telegram or letter, which is a matter of impossibility.

Cables from Germany to the Consul-General are numerous and are in code. These reach Auckland and are then transmitted to Wellington for delivery, a copy being retained at the receiving station which is subsequently forwarded here for filing after a lapse of about 3 days.

It is very unlikely that any cable would contain instructions to the Consul in regard to the nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting on the 21st instant, and is far more likely to have been given by letter, if instructions did come to hand.

I am satisfied from leakages to a friend by Gillitzer that the meeting dealt with the position of each individual present in regard to his future, should Germany and Britain engage in war.

I am continuing enquiries and will submit a further report when complete, and in addition I will submit a report giving the date of departure from the Dominion of Kiessling, and anything of interest in connection therewith.

It was suggested by the Naval authorities that certain members of the Royal Oak hotel staff attended the meeting on the 21st instant but that is not correct, as no German, apart from one who has been employed as cellarman for 40 years is on the staff. Four copies of Gillitzer's photograph attached.

J. Doyle
Detective Sergeant I337.