Consul-General Gainer to Viscount Halifax.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Vienna presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of his despatch to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Berlin, dated the 11th November, 1938, respecting the anti-Jewish demonstrations in Austria following the death of Herr vom Rath, secretary of the German Embassy at Paris.

Vienna, November 11, 1938.

Consul-General Gainer to Sir G. Ogilvie-Forbes.

Sir,

Vienna, November 11, 1938.

I have the honour to report that the anti-Jewish demonstrations in Vienna, the occasion of which was the murder of Herr vom Rath, secretary to the German Embassy in Paris, assumed very alarming proportions on the night of the 9th instant and during the whole of the 10th instant.

2. The action was undertaken by the Austrian S.A., most of whom were in full uniform, and the police had obviously received instructions not to intervene. A very large number of shops and houses owned or occupied by Jews were wrecked and numerous arrests took place. Yesterday morning Jewish prayer houses and synagogues were set on fire in considerable numbers; the Völkscher Beobachter, indeed, gives particulars of no less than nineteen synagogues which were completely destroyed by fire. Another in the Lcopoldgasse was destroyed by a bomb, which did considerable damage to near-lying buildings. All the fire brigades of Vienna were fully employed, as at one time there seemed to be grave danger of a serious and widespread conflagration involving large sections of the city.

3. The press openly rejoices at these manifestations and congratulates the people on the fact that the Jews "can now no longer hatch plots against the State under cover of religious services."

4. In addition to this orgy of destruction, all Jewish shops were forced to close and may not yet reopen. In many cases plate-glass
and other windows were broken and the shops were openly looted by the mob. Gauleiter Büchel endeavoured to give some appearance of legality to this anti-Jewish action by issuing instructions that houses occupied by Jews should be searched for weapons and illegal literature. In the course of the search numerous arrests were made.

5. The immediate consequence of these demonstrations was that hundreds of Jews formed even larger queues than usual outside this consulate-general and that of the United States. On the 9th instant already at 6:30 P.M. a large number of Jews lined up outside this consulate-general prepared to wait all night until the Passport Office opened the next morning. They were dispersed by the police that evening and three times again before 6:30 A.M. on the 10th and every Jewish man was taken into arrest, only the women and children being left. At the United States Consulate-General the S.A. began beating the crowds with rope-ends until the United States Consul-General, unable to bear the spectacle, insisted on police intervention, which was eventually granted.

6. The Vienna correspondent of The Times was arrested by the S.A. as he was taking notes of the demonstrations in the Leopoldgasse and was taken to the police station. On revealing his identity to the police, he received an apology and was allowed to go. Ten minutes later he was again arrested and again released. He informed me that on his arrival at the police station he observed a number of Jews covering in corners, so terrified that they were unable even to remember their names, while an old Jew with white hair and beard was lying on the floor being brutally kicked by an S.A. man while the regular police looked on.

7. This morning the public manifestations have ceased, but arrests continue to be made. The Jewish population is terrified and I am besieged with applications for help and by persons wishing to relate their experiences. I fear that several British subjects have suffered damage, and individual reports on these cases will be transmitted as soon as full particulars are available.

8. Last night Vienna presented an extraordinary spectacle, with fires raging all over the city and Jews being hustled along the streets, cursed at and assaulted by crowds of hooligans whose pride it is to belong to one of the greatest and most civilized nations of the world.

9. The anti-Jewish demonstrations were not confined to Vienna. Thus a synagogue at Linz was burnt to the ground; the synagogue at Salzburg was wrecked and its contents thrown into the street; Jewish shops were also looted. At Hallein and at Bad Gastein the Jewish hotels and pensions were sacked, including the Hôtel Bristol, the Kurhaus Cäcilia, a further Kurhaus and a large villa owned by a Jew.

I have, &c.

D. ST. CLAIR GAINER.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram of the 11th instant, reporting anti-Jewish manifestations in Cologne, I have the honour to state that additional reports indicate these to have been very thorough and systematic throughout my consular district. In Cologne itself, there have been suicides of German Jews actually known to me, though this unfortunately is nothing new in my experience. Four hundred Jews have been taken into "preventive arrest" ostensibly for their own protection. I bear, however, that they are unlikely to be set free until they have been financially bled. The Jewish synagogue in Cologne has been damaged by fire, and it is said that the local fire brigade took no action save to prevent the spread of the flames to neighbouring houses. The Jews are in a desperate plight. The offices of the consulate-general have been overrun with them, and though I do the best I can with a small staff it is frequently necessary to close the doors to the public to enable us to attend to those already in the office. One German Jewess pestered a member of the staff to take her husband into his small flat over the night of the 11th. The man actually arrived at the door with his pyjamas. There is nervousness amongst middle-class Germans, who in general disapprove. They dare not, however, voice their disapproval. One German woman who voiced her disapproval in a tram car which runs past my house was arrested at the first stop by Nazi guards. The industrialists say that they have no influence with the party, who have made such a point of racial purity that the Führer must carry his theories to their logical conclusion. Everyone agrees, however, that last week's events have considerably complicated international relations. Personally, I have been more shocked by the coldblooded and calculated manner in which action was taken than by anything else about the recent events. Yet I am inclined to think that the Führer knows his Germans. Amongst the masses of Germans who have nothing at stake there is observable a certain amount of "Schadenfreude" ("Joy in Mischief"). Our German cook, for instance, observed to me a few days ago that it was high time a certain neighbouring Jew was "washed up." In short, an abnormal situation exists in Cologne, as it does in the rest of my consular district. In Düsseldorf and elsewhere reports indicate that anti-Jewish measures have been even more drastic than in Cologne.

2. No attacks have, as far as I know, been made on British subjects of Jewish race. There are one or two ex-service men of the Jewish persuasion who are normally resident in my district. I have the impression that they have either left Cologne or are keeping off the streets.

3. A complaint and demand for protection of property was received on the 10th instant from a Herr Schwarz, who holds a power