

Deportation of the Danish Jews in October 1943

Telegram

(Secret Teletype)

Copenhagen, 1 October 1943, 1015 hrs

Arrival: 1 October 1943, 1040 hrs

No. 1176 of 1 Oct. Most urgent with priority,

I request that the following report be transmitted to the Reich Minister for Foreign Affairs immediately:

(1) The Jews to be evacuated will be arrested in the night of the first to the second of October 1943. They will be sent from Zeeland on board ship (from Copenhagen), from Funen and Jutland by rail in special trains.

(2) If I do not get instructions to the contrary, I intend not to have any mention made of the action against the Jews over the radio or in the press.

(3) If I do not get instructions to the contrary, I intend not to touch the property of the evacuated Jews, so that the taking away of these assets cannot be described as the primary or subsidiary object of the action.

(4) Any harmful effect of the action against the Jews on the attitude of the Danish population might be effectively... if to-morrow, on 2 October 1943, over the radio and

Marginal notes:

St. Sec. Keppler

Und. St. Sec. Polit

Ambassador Ritter

Ambassador Gaus

Head dept. Personnel

“ “ Trade policies

“ “ Law

“ “ Cultural policies

“ “ Press

“ “ Radio

Chief Protocol

Envoy Schnurre

Dirigent Polit

“ v. Grundherr,

Group Chief Internal I “ L.R. Melchers,

Group Chief Internal II Dr. Negerle Work Copy with Internal II

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and in the press, the announcement could be made that in the next few days the interned Danish soldiers will be released by and by. This would show that the Germans do not intend, as has already been contended here, to put the Danish peasant boys on the same footing as the Jews and

(handwritten): St. S. 1 Dan.....(?)

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that they are not to be deported like these, but that for the difficulties that have arisen in Denmark, the Jews will be held responsible in the first place and will be treated accordingly. I, therefore, ask, in agreement with the Commander of the German forces in Denmark, to be allowed to have the information broadcast here, over the radio and in the press, to-morrow – 2 October 1943 – that the release of the interned Danish soldiers (there is no need to speak of the officer so far) will begin one of these days.

(typed signature) Dr. Best.

Source: Yad Vashem Archives TR2\N11\1009\E, NG 3921