

ZIONIST DELEGATE MURDERED

AFTERMATH OF CONFERENCE
AT PRAGUE

PROMINENT NAZIS ARRESTED

ASSASSINS' SHOTS FROM A
LADDER

Swiftly and without any kind of warning the Zionist Congress at Prague has been followed by cold-blooded murder.

Professor Lessing, a German-Jewish philosopher who took part in the Congress, has been shot dead in his villa at Marienbad.

Bloodhounds have been used to follow the trail, and suspicion at least has already directed itself to a particular person.

No definite clue has as yet been discovered, but many arrests of Nazis have been made in Marienbad.

SHOT THROUGH A WINDOW

From Our Own Correspondent

PRAGUE, August 31.

Professor Theodor Lessing, a German-Jewish philosopher who had taken part in the Zionist Congress, was murdered last night as he sat writing in his villa at Marienbad. The murderers climbed a ladder and shot him through a window.

Two bullets were found, which experts believe to have been fired from two different revolvers, so that apparently there were two men on the ladder, and it is suspected by the police that there were more standing on guard below. The ladder had been brought from a forester's house three miles away.

Professor Lessing had been receiving threatening letters. Until recently he lived in a flat where his telephone cable was cut. He then moved into the villa where he was murdered.

For a man whose life was threatened the site of the villa was peculiarly unsuitable, since it was on the edge of the town, and the garden was bordered on one side by a large wood.

A bloodhound followed a trail from the Professor's villa to the neighbourhood of a village where lives a notorious local character.

A few days ago a person was overheard discussing Professor Lessing with a German from the Reich, who was not known locally. The police are therefore combing the country for the man.

to the persecution of the Jews in Germany as an international problem, and the menace of the Nazi regime in World Jewry. The Rabbi of New York, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, will lead the discussion on the latter subject.

It is hoped that as a result of the conference a permanent organisation will be set up in Geneva to defend the rights of Jews and to present the Jewish claim before the League of Nations when necessary.

SWISS FEELING RUNS HIGH

ANOTHER OUTRAGE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

GENEVA, August 31.

Feeling ran high to-day in Ramsen, the Swiss frontier town, which was the scene of the recent outrage when a Czech citizen was dragged over the frontier by German Storm troops into Germany. Practically all the inhabitants took part in a demonstration attacking the Germans for their frequent violations of the Swiss frontiers.

German motorists and cyclists were accused of spying, and Swiss Customs officers on the frontier were forced to warn German tourists that it would be dangerous for them to enter the town.

In the meantime the Swiss newspapers report another outrage. A Berne business man, while taking an apéritif in a café in the Swiss town of Diessendhof, which lies on the German frontier, happened to

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A few days ago a person was overheard discussing Professor Lessing with a German from the Reich, who was not known locally. The police are therefore combing the country for the man, but they have not yet caught him, and it is very possible that he has succeeded in crossing the frontier. No definite clues have yet been discovered, but twenty prominent Nazis have been arrested in Marienbad.

CRITIC OF HINDENBURG

Professor Lessing was a distinguished philosophical writer associated with the Social-Democrats, but advocated in his philosophy above all that the instincts should be given a larger place at the expense of reason, an attitude which he shared with many other modern writers, especially in Germany.

Professor Lessing was the type of Jewish idealist which has a peculiar faculty for enraging and irritating his opponent. Before the War he was an independent writer, but after the War was at first a tutor at the technical institute of Hanover and later Professor of Philosophy there.

In 1925 Professor Lessing aroused violent opposition in large circles by an article attacking Marshal Von Hindenburg which appeared in the "Prager Tagblatt." In one of his writings he boldly proclaimed that he had done everything possible in order to avoid military service during the War. He also roused much passion and indignation by the manner in which he discussed the Haarmann case, Haarmann being a murderer of the same type as the Dusseldorf "Vampire."

THREE ARRESTS

MARIENBAD, August 31.

Two arrests have been made of persons suspected of participation in the preparation of the murder of Professor Theodor Lessing, of Hanover University, who was shot dead last night in his room at his villa here. A taxi-driver has also been arrested.—Reuter.

INNSBRUCK ESCAPE

NAZI LEADER NOT TO BE EXTRADITED

MUNICH, August 31.

A bullet in his knee, Austrian troops hot on his trail, rough mountain paths between him and safety—such is the tale of Franz Hofer, the Austrian Nazi leader, who was rescued yesterday morning from Innsbruck gaol by three fellow Nazis disguised as Austrian policemen. He and his rescuers struggled into Bolzano, safely over the Italian frontier, early this morning.

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In the meantime the Swiss newspapers report another outrage. A Berne business man, while taking an apéritif in a café in the Swiss town of Diessendhof, which lies on the German frontier, happened to make a few jokes about Adolf Hitler. He was immediately followed from the café, and, unfortunately for him, crossed the frontier. When he arrived in the German town of Gailingen (Baden), his pursuers informed the local Storm troops, who at once set upon him. After he had been roughly handled he was imprisoned, but later released.

It is stated that the two persons spying on him who denounced him to the Brown Shirts have been forbidden to enter Switzerland.

BERLIN'S HINT TO WASHINGTON

CORRESPONDENT'S SAFETY "NOT GUARANTEED"

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

BERLIN, August 31.

Mr. Edgar Mowrer, correspondent of the "Chicago Daily News," and until his resignation three weeks ago, President of the Foreign Press Association in Berlin, left Germany to-night. His departure was hurried forward by nearly a week under pressure from the German Foreign Office, which informed the State Department in Washington that it could not guarantee his personal safety unless he left at once.

This extraordinary hint of possible assault or assassination is surprising, coming from a Government with unlimited police power at its disposal. Mr. Mowrer's hurried departure has made it impossible for the Foreign Press Association to entertain him to a lunch in his honour which had been arranged for next Tuesday.

Mr. Mowrer was declared *persona non grata* last February on account of his book "Germany puts the clock back," but his proffered resignation was refused by an overwhelming majority of his colleagues.

GERMAN JEWS FOR PALESTINE

BERLIN, August 31.

Emigration to Palestine by German Jews who have been deprived of their livelihood in Germany is to be furthered by a scheme contained in a new decree dated August 28, of which the text is published by the Berlin "Boersen Courier." No official confirmation is so far available, publication in this newspaper being described as pre-emptive report.