1923-09-27 US NARA M336 Roll 19 pages 193-194 Cable from US Ambassador Houghton in Berlin to Washington

Last evening Bavarian Government suspended personal guarantees of constitution and appointed Kahr dictator. Government here after a cabinet meeting early this morning proclaimed martial law throughout Germany. A . . . demonstration by Right occurred yesterday in Pomerania but is apparently of no significance.

Saw Chancellor this noon. He says action of Bavarian Government was not aimed at Reich but designed solely to prevent impending putsch by Ludendorff and Hitler. Bavaria he says remains loyal. Knilling Minister President of Bavaria had given him this assurance as late as ten o’clock this morning by telephone. Haniel, Reich’s minister to Bavaria, gives him same assurance. The fact that General Lossow is left in control of troops in Bavaria seems to justify this conclusion as Lossow is obedient to Reich and will take his orders from . . . for defense. It was however deemed prudent in order to put Reich in a position to act quickly and decisively if necessity arose to proclaim martial law throughout Germany.

Situation here quiet. There is some natural excitement among population but on the surface everything is moving peacefully. Every effort apparently is being made to restrain the hot headed and youthful members of the Right.

Houghton.