1923-11-08 US NARA M336 Roll 19 pags 507-508 Report of R.D. Murphy, U.S. Vice Consul in Munich, re Hitler-Ludendorff putsch

November 8, 12 p.m. [midnight]

Urgent. Confidential. At a political assembly arranged by united patriotic societies this evening to which were invited Commissioner General Von Kahr and the entire Bavarian cabinet at which Kahr was to speak on the future of the German nation in contemplation outbreak of revolution at Munich five years previous. Adolf Hitler leader national socialists suddenly appeared accompanied by body guard having surrounded building with so-called Munich regiment of his organization announced that at that instant, approximately 9 o’clock national revolution had broken out and the new provisional Federal Government Hitler, Ludendorf, Poehner and Kahr was German. According Hitler task of this Government is to march on Berlin, wage twelfth hour fight; asserted that the dawn would see either new national government or the death of speaker. Bavarian Premier Knilling forced to retire and Kahr appointed States President. . . . Poehner member of Hitler organization Bavarian Premier with dictatorial powers; Ebert declared hereby removed from office and German National Government declared German in Munich. Hitler undertakes political direction new government Ludendorf military direction General Von Lossow named German Reich’s Minsiter of War Colonel Seiffer German federal police commissioner. Kahr accepted the Hitler appointment with the statement ‘I have decided to undertake as Governor of Bavaria and Custodian of the monarchy the direction of Bavaria.’ Hitler’s declarations appointments were greeted by tumultuous applause apparently had the full approval of entire assembly Ludendorf who was not present, was secured from home, accepted appointment with the statement he would make every effort bring back honor glory to the Imperial colors. Telegraphic communication is cut off and little information available of troop movement toward Berlin. Ruprecht has not openly participated in movement which came as a complete surprise to Kahr and Bavarian cabinet thought meets with approval. Ruprecht’s restoration will depend on success of move. If successful his restoration as King of Bavaria appears imminent.

Murphy.