Telegram from Diego von Bergen, German Ambassador to the Vatican in Rome, to the German Foreign Office in Berlin, July 31, 1934

From confidential sources I have learned the following: The Pope has been deeply affected by the news he has received from Germany about the details of the shooting of Klausener, Probst, Schmidt, and Beck, the alleged denial of assistance of clergy to some persons condemned to death, the cremation of Catholics and the way their ashes were sent to family members, as well as the death of Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss. He is therefore little inclined at the moment to enter into negotiations with the Reich Government and is decidedly against giving unconditional agreement to the decision reached in Berlin between the Reich Government and the Bishops, against which various German bishops have already asserted their views.

We have no decisive interest in hastening the negotiations of the issues concerned and can wait. Also the momentary psychosis will pass.

/s/ Bergen

Source: *Documents on German Foreign Policy, 1918-1945* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1959), C3, p.166. (German version)