

SALUTE TO AUSTRIA

*Messages received by the Austrian
Democratic Union on the occasion
of the 25th Anniversary of the
foundation of the Austrian Republic.*

Minister of State Dr. H. RIPKA,
Czechoslovak Foreign Office.

There is no need to emphasise anew the Czechoslovak attitude to Austria on this occasion of your 25th anniversary. Our views are well known, and we, therefore, welcome to-day, as we did before the Moscow conference, every effort sincerely aiming at the re-establishment of a free and independent Austria.

H. E. Dr. V. K. WELLINGTON KOO,
Chinese Ambassador.

The relations of China and Austria were always characterized by friendship and cordiality, and the Chinese people have entertained a high regard for the culture and institutions of Austria. They have particular sympathy for the Austrians who were the first among European peoples to bear the brunt of Nazi aggression and whose free institutions were destroyed by brutal force. The Chinese people are confident that these freedom-loving Austrians will make substantial contributions to the United Nations in the common fight for the cause of justice. The decision of the Moscow Conference to restore a free and independent Austria is a symbol of the determination of the United Nations to restore the reign of law in international relations. I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of the Chinese people in expressing my best wishes for the meeting in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Republic and the sincere hope for the early liberation of the Austrian people from the yoke of the aggressor.

Mr. CHRISTMAS MOLLER,
President, Danish Council.

In 1864 and 1866 respectively my country, Denmark, and your country, Austria, became the first victims of the Prussians, *i.e.*, the age-old Nazi-German spirit of aggression. Again in this World War and during the time immediately preceding it, our countries were among the first victims of the Prusso-Nazi brutality and terror. Firmly grasping the demands of our time, the historic Moscow Conference has, through its promise to the Austrian people, given the other subject peoples a guarantee that injustices of the past shall be wiped out and expiated. The Free Danes convey their best wishes on the occasion of your country's 25th anniversary. We wish you may be able to celebrate the next anniversary in a liberated and independent Austria, in a world where the foundation has been laid for the collaboration between the peoples, which can alone create a better future, and in which the Austrian people with its proud traditions in the spheres of science, art and all other positive forces will have a great contribution to make.

H. E. Count EDWARD RACZYNSKI,
Polish Ambassador.

The Polish Government welcomed with sincere satisfaction the decision made by the Moscow Conference on November 2nd, concerning the restoration of free and independent Austria, the first victim of German aggression in Europe. Between independent Austria and Poland there always existed friendly relations and economic collaboration. Poland, fighting implacably not only for her own freedom and independence, but for that of all conquered and enslaved nations, believes that the common victory of the Allies over the predatory German aggressor will assure a happy future to the peace loving Austrian people.

H. E. Mons. B. JEVTIĆ,
Yugoslav Ambassador.

I should like to offer you the assurance of my best personal wishes and to express the welcome given by Yugoslavia to the decision of the Moscow Conference for the re-establishment of an independent Austria, in the conviction that a free and democratic Austria will, with Yugoslavia, share the efforts for the setting up again of a constructive, peaceful and definitive order in Central Europe.

THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER.

All friends of Austria must rejoice at the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Republic. I am particularly happy that this land-mark in the history of Austria should occur so near the historic decision of the Moscow Conference to restore a free and independent Austria. I offer warm congratulations and heartiest good wishes to the Austrian Democratic Union.

The Rt. Hon. LORD LYTTON,
former Acting Viceroy of India.

I send you a message of cordial good wishes on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Republic. When your members meet to-morrow to celebrate this occasion, they will be greatly encouraged by two recent events of the highest importance—the first is the decision of the Moscow Conference to restore a free and independent Austria, the second is the news conveyed to me in your letter of yesterday, that you have succeeded in forming an Austrian Committee representative of all shades of political opinion. This union of all parties is a happy augury for the future.

Mr. GEOFFREY Le M. MANDER, M.P.

The 25th Anniversary of the Austrian Republic is being celebrated under happy circumstances. The three greatest Powers who will dominate the world after the war have made clear at the Moscow Conference that Austria is to be free and independent, and have also indicated that this will best function in a friendly association economically and politically with her neighbours. May 1944 bring this to you.

The Rt. Hon. EARL OF PERTH,
former Secretary-General to the League of Nations.

The 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Republic is not only a historic date in itself but derives particular significance from the recent decision of the Moscow Conference that there shall again be a free and independent Austria. The resolution of the three Powers must be a matter of special rejoicing on the part of the members of the Austrian Democratic Union, who are striving for the attainment of this end. Although the final accomplishment of the task will require time, labour and energy, it can now be approached with fresh hope and courage and with the ultimate certainty of fulfilment.

The Rt. Hon. LORD VANSITTART.

I regret that absence in the North of England prevents me from being present on the anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Republic. Like all well-wishers of the true Austrian cause, I have been greatly heartened by the results of the Moscow Conference in this respect. I have always maintained that the liberation of Austria would mean nothing worth having unless it means *Los von Deutschland*. Now we have the pledge of a truly independent Austria, independent, that is, of Germany, and I hope that this declaration will put an end to any further pan-German intrigues and ambitions either here or anywhere else. Austria will now have a great chance. I feel sure that she will take it.

THE RE-REGISTRATION OF AUSTRIANS

The fact that thousands of Austrians in this country are still registered as Germans is in contradiction to the legal position and is also incompatible with the political development.

Notwithstanding the Declaration of Great Britain, Russia and the U.S.A. at the Moscow Conference that the annexation of Austria is null and void, many Austrians are still persistently registered as being of German nationality. We must again reiterate that we are not Germans but Austrians.

In asking for re-registration, i.e., the alteration in our Registration Certificates of the words "German Nationality" to "Austrian Nationality," we are not demanding better treatment or any further advantages. What we require is to be registered according to our real and legal nationality. It is a miscarriage of justice to impose upon Austrians a nationality which is not theirs.

The Austrian Representative Committee and the Austrian Democratic Union (the latter not for the first time) have undertaken the necessary steps in order to achieve this re-registration. We hope to succeed because we believe in British justice.

THE AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE and the INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

An encouraging and most important message was sent to the Austrian Trade Union by the General Secretary to the International Federation of Trade Unions. The Austrian Trade Union is one of the founders and a member of the Austrian Representative Committee. We reproduce below the passage which especially refers to the Representative Committee.

The Constitution, on November 9th, of the Austrian Representative Committee is the first step leading to the reconstruction of the second free Austrian Republic, for those represented on this Committee are really the masses of the Austrian people: industrial workers of the towns organised in their Trade Unions and in their Social-Democratic Party, the Christian Social Movement representing the Catholic workers and employees as well as the great majority of the rural population, and the Democratic Union representing the liberal middle-class and the progressive industrialists.

WALTER SCHEVENELS,

General Secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions.

We should like to remind our Members and friends that the recently formed Austrian Representative Committee is composed of:—

The London Bureau of Austrian Socialists (Austrian In. Labour Party).

The Austrian Trade Union.

The Christlichsoziale Verband (Catholics).

The Austrian Democratic Union.

Therefore, the Representative Committee embraces all parties except the Communists who have been invited to join.