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DE-NAZIFICATION AND ITS FINAL REGULATION VICE-CHANCELLOR Dr. SCHAERF ON THE DRAFT PROPOSALS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Adolf Schaerf, interviewed by a representative of the *Sozialistische Korrespondenz*, explained his attitude towards the problem of de-Nazification and, in his capacity of Chairman of the Socialist Party, discussed the draft proposals which our party will presently submit to the other parties. Here are some of the points made by Dr. Schaerf:

Our Parliament and Government will have to deal before long with the purge of Nazis from our public life and from the administration of Industry and Commerce, and with the final elimination of Nazism.

Final laws regulating the classification of former National Socialists and the subsequent treatment of the various categories will be drafted.

THE NEW LAWS

The Dissolution Act (*Verbotsgesetz*) passed last year has established the basis for the dissolution of the N.S.D.A.P. (National Socialist German Workers' Party) and for the special treatment of Nazis. Final laws are now to be drafted which will clearly lay down what legal punishment is to be meted out to each category of Nazis. It goes without saying that the punishment will depend in each case on the gravity of the offence committed and will be graded according to the importance of the Nazi under indictment and to the extent to which he collaborated. An employee in a minor capacity may, therefore, under certain circumstances, be treated more leniently than a Nazi who occupied or still occupies a position of influence. Certain branches of the civil service and also of industry and commerce will not be accessible to Nazis. Former National Socialists will also have to pay compensation

(*Suehneleistungen*) in the form of taxes. Their removal from allotments and similar measures will also have to be carried through. The whole question of the taxation of Nazis is closely related to the question of compensation for the victims of Fascism.

It is obviously to be expected that certain small groups of persons whose inner convictions, although they were loosely connected with the Nazi Party, would not justify their being regarded as Nazis, *i.e.*, in the first place those who were allowed to vote at the last elections, are no longer to be treated as Nazis.

Forfeiture Of Citizenship

Furthermore, it will have to be considered whether the plan of the Austrian Government to deprive illegal Nazis (those who were members of the Nazi Party before 1938) of their citizenship can be carried out. This will depend on

the form of the Treaty in which Austria's liberation and her constitution as an independent state will be embodied. Treaties of that type always contain a definition of the persons who are to be admitted to, or excluded from, citizenship.

AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS INVITED TO GREAT BRITAIN

The British Labour Party has invited the Socialist Party of Austria to send a delegation to Great Britain.

AUSTRIAN LABOUR JOINS PROTEST AGAINST FRANCO

At a meeting of the National Executive of the Austrian Socialist Party a resolution was passed condemning the Franco régime and the political persecutions in Spain, in the following terms:

"The Socialist Party of Austria has been moved to deep indignation by the reports on the savage persecution of Spanish anti-Fascists by Franco's régime. Fascism throughout the world has been overthrown by the valiant struggle of all peace-loving nations. Only the Spanish dictator Franco trusts he will be able to preserve his sanguinary system.

"Austrian Labour has made many sacrifices during 12 years of struggle against Fascism.

"Hundreds of Austrian Socialists fought on the battlefields in the civil war against Franco. They sacrificed their lives for Spain in a genuinely international spirit.

"In memory of them, the Socialist Party, speaking for the Austrian working classes, solemnly protests against the executions and oppression of anti-Fascist fighters for liberation in Spain.

"Austrian Labour believes that in Spain, as in other countries, only the working classes, which have steadfastly fought against Franco since 1935, can lay the foundations for a new democratic evolution.

De-Nazification And Employees

The Committee of Ministers for the de-Nazification of the key positions in State, Industry and Commerce (*Ministerkomitee zur Entnazifizierung der leitenden Stellen in Staat und Wirtschaft*) with Chancellor Figl as Chairman and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Schaerf, Minister Helmer, Dr. Gruber and Dr. Altmann present, have decreed 90 further dismissals and confirmed 889 dismissals and notices issued since April, 1945.

"In accordance with the Austrian Trade Union League, the World Trade Union Federation and all the friends of freedom throughout the world, the Socialist Party of Austria demands the uprooting of Franco and his régime as the last hide-out of Fascist barbarism in Europe."

Other protests have been made in a similar vein by different groups and organisations.

The Austrian Trade Union League has associated itself with the protests of trade unions all over the world against the executions of Republicans in Spain.

Protests against the execution of three women anti-Fascists have been cabled to the Spanish Foreign Minister by the Austrian League for the Rights of Man; by a group of Women M.P.s; and by the National Women's Committee of the Socialist Party.

ANOTHER PAPER SUSPENDED

The Allied Council in Austria has suspended the Socialist newspaper in Graz *Neue Zeit*. The paper published an article criticising the policy of the Soviet Union in 1939.

The *Linzer Tagblatt*, Socialist paper in Upper Austria, which was suppressed some time ago, has been allowed to reappear. The Editor of the paper has been replaced.

KARL SEITZ SPEAKS FOR FREEDOM

Karl Seitz, former Mayor of "Red Vienna," the veteran leader of Austrian Socialism, in a session of the Austrian parliament called for liberty for Austrian democracy. The Austrian parliament needs the permission of the Allied Council to make laws. Seitz pointed out that the right of the parliament to give laws is one of the basic rights of parliamentary democracy.

Emperors and Kings, declared Seitz, hesitated to use their right to veto a bill of the elected parliament. When we see on the top of Government documents the statement that no bill can be voted without the consent

of the Allied Council, we must ask: does Democracy exist in Europe?

If it does, how can this rule be explained? This parliament, after all, is the acknowledged representation of our people. It may pass resolutions, but it has to ask for permission. We appeal to the sense of honour of the British, the French, the Russian and especially the American people in this matter.

Seitz emphasised that he did not want to speak about the question of the occupation forces or the occupation zones, but he was sure to have the support of the whole House in asking the Allies to give Austria the right to make her own laws.

AUSTRIA'S FATE IS LINKED WITH UNO Dr. RENNER ON AUSTRIA'S FUTURE

The Federal President, Dr. Renner, explained his views on Austria's future in an interview given to the *Salzburger Demokratisches Volksblatt*. He stated again that Austria wishes to join the United Nations Organisation. To Austria, success of this institution means everything. Her fate is linked up with it. The country has no wish to tie itself to the West or to the East. "We do not want," said Dr. Renner, "to become an appendix to one single power or to a group of powers. We want to be independent, free from all spheres of influence, joined to U.N.O. directly, and not in a roundabout way."

Dr. Renner said he was convinced that the world would soon regain its unity, and then Austria would be needed as an intermediary between East and West in cultural and economic activities.

"It has not been fully realised how much the earth has become an indivisible entity. Wars now tend to become struggles of everybody against everybody, involving every continent. It is no longer possible to confine a conflict to two countries only. So the idea of the United States of Europe has become obsolete before it was possible to realise it. Now,

in the age of the atom bomb, the whole globe has become one battlefield, the air one traffic road, and radio has made the ether one theatre for one single auditorium. There is only one great power able to guarantee a lasting peace. This power is mankind as a whole.

"Despite their differences the Powers will unite. It will be so, because it must be so."

172 SOCIALIST MAYORS IN STYRIA

The city and village Councils in Styria will now be reorganised. After the liberation, provisional Councils took over local administration. Now these Councils will be reorganised in the light of the November elections. Normally there should be separate elections for the local administration bodies, but in the present circumstances these elections have been postponed. However, the composition of the different Councils will be brought in line with the election results. In Styria there are 172 communities with a Socialist majority, all of which will have Socialists as Mayors. Half of the population of Styria lives in these communities.

COMMENT ON CHURCHILL'S SPEECH

Mr. Winston Churchill's speech in Fulton has, in addition to its general impact, caused a special local sensation in Austria. This was evoked by the allusions he made to Austria. A Viennese radio commentator expressed his bewilderment in a broadcast from Vienna.

Referring first to the general implications of the speech, he proceeds to examine Mr. Churchill's remark on the position in Vienna. "Is Vienna," he asks, "not under the joint occupation of four powers? We know only too well what a heavy burden the demarcation lines are. Still the situation is somewhat different from Mr. Churchill's description. Were our elections on 25th November not free and unobstructed?

TRANSPORT GETS GOING AGAIN

Transport was in a very sorry state shortly after the liberation of the country. But with the help of the Allies, the Austrian transport workers and officials got busy and got the railways going again. So the Minister of Transport, Uebeleis, a Socialist railway worker himself, was able to give not too gloomy a picture in an interview with a member of the Czechoslovak Press Bureau. Austria has 5,955 kilometres of railway lines, 5,649 kilometres are in working order. As there is not enough coal, traffic is hampered. But as far as electric power is used and as far as coal deliveries permit, the lines are as busy as possible again. International transport is very limited. Only UNRRA imports, Allied transports for Austria, and coal imports are permitted. When the war ended 385 railway bridges had been destroyed in Austria, 234 of them can be used again. Reconstruction is very much restricted by the cutting up of the country into occupation zones, because material cannot be moved as freely as necessary over the borders of the different zones. Despite this and other difficulties it is altogether not such a bad show after all.

Was not every elector able to vote according to his opinion? To be sure, our democracy is not ideal. Our Parliament does not yet enjoy supreme legislative power. It is subjected to the authority of the Allied council. Its members are sometimes compelled to make decisions under the guidance of representatives of the four Allied Powers. Our laws must be approved by the Allied Council in order to become valid. We know this cannot be helped. It is a consequence of war and Fascism. Nevertheless the basis of Austrian democracy has been set up anew. We Austrians have a particular interest in a permanent peace, just because we live on the Stettin-Trieste line."

SWISS HELP

More children have left for Switzerland. This time 200 children from Vienna and 118 from Wiener-Neustadt and Neunkirchen (Lower Austria) have been sent off. The Swiss Red Cross Children's Welfare Scheme organised the good work.

PEAS, PEAS, NOTHING BUT PEAS

The effect of food conditions on the housewife can be seen from a letter printed by the weekly paper of the Socialist Women's Group.

A housewife from a working-class district of Vienna writes:

"When I set the pot of peas on the fire, I lose my appetite long before I start eating. These wretched peas get burned so easily. I would be so grateful for some new ideas for cooking them. Peas, peas, nothing but peas—it is so dreadfully monotonous. We haven't even got a little seasoning or a bit of sausage to make them more tasty. Don't be angry with me, I write as I feel."

A British observer said recently to an Austrian interviewer: "The Austrians suffer from too much self-pity." Does this observation also apply to such working-class mothers and housewives, we wonder?

THE DOCKERS OF VENICE

The docks of Venice were idle. The dockers had decided to strike. They have bitter grievances and they use the weapon they know. This was the situation when on the 7th of March, the UNRRA ship *Sidney H. Short* was anchored on the shores of the old City. In Vienna they were waiting for the goods stored in the bulk of this steamer. The first consignment of UNRRA goods for Austria, 8,000 tons of wheat, were loaded on the *Sidney H. Short*. A cruel situation. In the hunger districts of Lower Austria, workers were dying for want of bread. And in the idle docks of Venice food for the starving had arrived. Then and there the stevedores of Venice showed the world that the words "international solidarity" were no empty slogan to them, to be paraded on certain days. It came to their knowledge that a ship loaded with bread grain for Austria had arrived. And, as the Vienna *Arbeiter-Zeitung* reports, they decided to unload it. Everywhere else in the docks, men were idle. On the *Sidney H. Short*, the stevedores got busy. The wheat was delivered in Vienna on schedule. The *Arbeiter Zeitung* concludes its report as follows:

"This shining example of solidarity practised by the Italian workers in aid of the workers of Austria will never be forgotten. It is a token, showing the strength of the idea of Internationalism. A light in the darkness of a world filled with distrust and national strife. Thanks to the dockers of Venice."

SWEDISH HELP

During the middle of the last month, food from Sweden arrived in Vienna. Sixteen big 6 to 8 ton lorries transported the stuff through half Europe. The food will be used by the Swedish Meals for Children Scheme. The Swedish Meals for Children are a very big help indeed, especially in the workers' districts. More food, clothes and medicaments may have arrived from Sweden by now. A second convoy of 24 lorries has been on its way for some days.

AUSTRIA MAY EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES

The Austrian Government has been informed by the Secretary-General of the Allied Council for Austria of a decision permitting it to exchange Political (Diplomatic) Representatives with all countries (except Germany and Japan), that have recognised the Republic and the Government of Austria.

This information was given in answer to a note by Dr. Gruber, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs. In this note permission was asked for the Austrian Government to exchange representatives with the neighbouring countries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Switzerland and Italy.

The exchange of representatives with other countries brings Austria nearer to the status of full sovereignty. This permission is therefore to be welcomed. But in itself it will not greatly help to set the country on its feet again as long as there are no possibilities for resuming mutual trade and other relations existing between civilised nations.

AID TO AGRICULTURE

In order to enable the Austrian peasants to grow more food, the U.S. forces in Austria have made 3,000 tons of coal available to Austrian agriculture. The other occupying powers have co-operated with the Americans to make this possible. The coal is to be used exclusively by steam-driven agricultural machines, during the time of the spring sowing.

Other agricultural machinery and tools, as well as lorries, tractors and petrol, will also be supplied by the U.S. forces.

SLOVENE CO-OPERATIVES RE-ESTABLISHED IN CARINTHIA

The Slovene minority in Carinthia will be able to set up their Agricultural Co-operatives once more, following a decision of the Provincial Government.

AID TO AUSTRIA APPEAL

We trust that all of our readers have been listening-in to Mrs. Barbara Ayrton-Gould's appeal on the BBC, and that most of them have responded. Will those who have not yet done so let these words be a reminder. Please send your contributions to "AID TO AUSTRIA APPEAL," 21 Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1.

Various efforts by all Austrian organisations in collecting money brought in about £3,000. For £1,000 the Appeal has purchased tinned milk, for another £1000 margarine, both in Switzerland. These, we hope, have arrived in Austria by now.

Roughly one ton of clothes has been collected, and we wish to place on record our gratitude to our friends throughout

the country who have contributed. This ton is on its way to Austria and we hope that our friends at home will soon receive the clothing. The fact that these clothes, so badly needed in Austria, and collected by us several months ago, are but now on their way to our country clearly shows how necessary it is to carry on with our collection without slackening. Mr. Noel-Baker, in his address to the UNRRA Conference on March 18th, said: ". . . There are terrible months ahead and next winter may be even worse." If we continue our collection without relaxing, our friends at home need not shiver next winter. Our store room is empty now. We don't like empty rooms. Please help us to fill it again.

THE CUT IN THE FOOD RATIONS

The necessity to cut the food rations at the very moment when the first UNRRA consignment of 8,000 tons of wheat arrived in Vienna, shows how very serious the situation is. The cut was, of course, a very cruel blow to the hopes of the Austrians, who, in spite of all warnings to expect as little as possible, were convinced that UNRRA would bring substantial relief.

As things are now, there is no great change. There will be a reduction of rations in Upper Austria, Salzburg and Styria. Very small reductions will take place in Vienna and Eastern Austria. It is hoped that it will be possible to improve the rations in Burgenland. In the rest of Austria, no major changes will take place. The truth is that the

coupons very often could not be honoured.

The new scale provides 1,200 calories for ordinary consumers; 1,300 for children; 1,450 for employees; 1,850 for workers; and 2,700 calories for heavy workers.

Great efforts are made by the Socialist Food Minister Frenzel to equalise food distribution throughout the country and to put the resources of the country to the best use. Bread grains will be extracted to 95 per cent.; no grain is to be used for the feeding of animals or the manufacture of alcohol. All stocks of barley held by breweries or firms manufacturing coffee substitutes have been confiscated by the Ministry of Food.

STARVATION IN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

In the industrial district of the Triesting valley (Lower Austria) the daily ration amount to not more than 441 calories. Adults in Duernkrut lost 50lbs. of their weight on an average. In January six people died of starvation in Weissenbach, the mortality rate jumping up to treble the war figure.

THE VICTIMS

There was not enough milk for children in Vienna between March and August, 1945. In every one of these terrible months, 470 children died on an average. In September, more milk arrived for the children of Vienna, in October there were 274 deaths, in November 174. The mortality of children fell to 158 in January, 1946.

SWISS IMPRESSIONS OF VIENNA TODAY

Last week after a really first-class theatre performance we were threading our way home through night and cold, over fields of ruins and barely closed bomb craters. A Swiss friend suggested that the musical enthusiasm, the theatre craze, the mass visits to the museums of the Viennese today were nothing but escapism, dangerous escapism into an aesthetic world, conscious turning away from hard realities. Is it true? I do not know.

I only know that in this unhappy suffering city a lot of hard and honest work is done in extremely difficult conditions. Some of this work disproves all that was said in the past about Viennese easy-going ways. I know of officials and doctors who do not get out of their clothes from six in the morning to midnight. I know of many men of all ages—there are some of fifty among them—who got up at 4.30 a.m. in the hard months after the siege when there were no means of transport and walked seven, nine miles to their working places and worked there for nine hours only to walk the same way back in the evening.

"Of course we all had sore feet," they say as if it was the most natural thing in the world. And the women say quite happily: "We got quite expert at carrying water. It is much easier to carry two pails than one because the weight is better distributed, and a piece of wood should swim on the water, then it spills less," they proudly add. Many had to fetch the water from 500 yards away for months in the hottest time of year.

I know of women who worked for half a lifetime to build up a little shop which is today buried under rubble and who have meanwhile, with the diligence of bees, started the same little shop again three houses further on. I heard women, the real heroines of this war, in a matter-of-fact tone without any melodrama, speak of the worst days of bombardment, of the horrible four, five, six days in the cellars during the siege, of the terrible weeks just afterwards.

And today while much has already improved, while trams run (though only on a few lines), while gas and electricity function (even only at very short periods each day), while even a telephone connection is established occasionally (the Vienna phone book of July, 1945, is a thin volume of 12 pages) this improvement has brought to light the best quality of the Viennese woman: hospitality. The few foodstuffs, saved at home, carried in laboriously from the country, bought at high price on the black market, are happily and quite as a matter of course shared with friends. The Viennese women—always inspired by a genius of invention in the kitchen—have been transformed into real experts by emergency. While on the gas range in the kitchen or bathroom the peas—the daily bread of the Viennese—are cooking, the most curious meals are prepared on the living room stove. For example, soda water is used in place of milk and malt extract in place of saccharin. And after dinner the cigarette is lighted on the glowing poker because there are no matches.

Oh, the cigarette! Every smoker, male or female, carries a little receptacle and collects stubs wherever they can be found. All the time you can see women in fur coats in the street bend down for stubs and place them carefully into their handbags. Twenty-eight cigarettes have been issued since the armistice, eight in August and 20 as Christmas ration. A "black" cigarette costs between two and three schillings—the waiters sell them in the coffee houses which gradually open their doors. They serve a curious brew called "hot drink" and are very well attended.

The cost of the rationed food per month—700 grammes peas, 250 grammes lard, 6 kilos bread and a little powdered egg—is between 24 and 28 schillings. Everything else can be procured only on the black market or by barter. A handful of vegetables—a kilo of carrots, a little

salad or a bunch of chives—costs 37 schillings. A kilo of meat costs 120 to 180, a kilo potatoes 20, a kilo fat 500 schillings. As all accounts are blocked and the highest sum paid out in monthly salaries is 1,000 schillings, those who have something to sell have to sell their jewellery or articles of their household. The old joke of the period after the First World War about a "wall to mouth existence" has again become very topical. Only this time more things are exchanged than sold. The peasant woman who brings some eggs is paid with a linen sheet and the lard provider receives the brocade cover of the living room table.

In the restaurants which have largely been transformed into factory canteens food is extremely cheap and extremely bad. The menu costs between schilling 1.100 and 1.50. It consists of thick soup, two spoons full of pea or bean purée. On some days as a great delicacy there are a few potatoes. There is nothing to drink. The dish covers are extraordinarily dirty. The plates are chipped. And there is no cutlery. Each guest carries his own knife and fork, rinses it after the meal in a little cold water and puts it into his pocket again. In the back room of two or three restaurants it is possible to eat without coupons. There the menu (a sandwich as hors d'œuvre, an impoverished soup, a microscopic piece of meat with vegetable and some quite good coffee) costs between 50 and 80 schillings. The bottle of wine that stands discreetly under the table costs the same.

A walk through devastated Vienna is a thing of unimaginable sadness. Negligence, dirt, ruins, dust, uneven roads, deep water holes wherever one looks. The notorious Vienna wind which is particularly nasty this year is continually throwing up so much dust and sand that one always has inflamed eyes. "But everything has already been cleared away," say the Viennese in an offended tone. My God, everything cleared away! Whole squares in the Inner City and the embankment of the Danube Canal are nothing but heaps of ruins. But it really seems that the eye gets used too quickly to ruins and ab-

surdities. Even we after a few days passed without noticing it a large-as-life bronze fountain figure which instead of adorning the non-existent fountain stands peacefully in the middle of the road on the tram line. We almost did not turn round when we saw a lady walk through the City Park with a hen on a lead. We almost cast no glance on the burnt-out opera house of which the loss has hit the Viennese harder than anything else.

But the Viennese have not lost their deeply ingrained, apparently indestructible sense of humour. They have still got their melancholy sarcasm. "We have still got the Hitler monument," they say, looking at the pompous baroque Plague Column which stands unharmed in the midst of all the devastation.

And the Russian High Command on the Ring Strasse, with its façade adorned by two colossal pictures of Lenin and Stalin with an enormous star is known as "Red Star Inn" or as the "Pea King's Hotel." With the words "Here you have your hat, old Gospodin," a slightly tight Viennese replaces the fur cap on the head of a similarly tight Russian at midnight on St. Stephen's Square and the Russian bows gratefully.

(Zurich Weltwoche)

ENGLISH BOOKS FOR VIENNA

An exhibition of British books has been opened in Vienna. President Dr. Renner, Chancellor Figl, the Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Gruber, the Minister for Education Dr. Hurdes, the Mayor of Vienna General Koerner, were all present at the opening. On the British side, Lt.-General Sir Richard McCreery and a representative of the British Council took part. The British Council delegate promised more English books for Austria. There are 20,000 books on view at the exhibition.

AUSTRIAN LABOUR CLUB

SUNDAY, April 7th, 7 p.m.:

Group of Austrian Socialists in Great Britain. (Members only).

SUNDAY, April 14th, 7 p.m.

"Kestner and Tucholsky. Poems and Prose." (In German). Tickets 1/-.