

Summer Welles Papers
Box 150 Folder 2
Major Correspondents
Roosevelt, Franklin May-July 1938

[from Safe]

June 7, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to your memorandum of June 3 with which you sent me a letter you had received from Hugh Wilson under date of May 12, the Secretary and I are entirely in accord with the views expressed in your memorandum.

You say in the first paragraph of your memorandum, "The first question for determination is this: Is the Nuremberg Party Rally an official government celebration or a Party Convention? If the answer is that it is the first, our Ambassador can and should attend."

In determining the question whether the Nuremberg Party Rally is an official government celebration, the following facts appear to be established. Last September the formal invitation to the Diplomatic Corps in Berlin to attend the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg was issued by the Chancellor of the German Reich and transmitted through the German Foreign Office. As a matter of interest in this connection, the conference

The President,

The White House.

-3-

was attended by all chiefs of mission excepting the Runcio, the Soviet Ambassador, the Norwegian Minister (due to difficulties over the awarding of the Nobel Prize in 1936), and the Peruvian Minister (due to the Minister's illness).

For internal purposes the Nazi Party and the State in Germany are one by virtue of a law of December 1, 1933, which provides that "the National-Socialist Labor Party has become the organ of the State policy and is indissolubly united with the State".

In view of these facts, it would seem to be the case that the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg is actually an official government celebration and is so held by the present German Government.

Do you wish us to draft a suggested letter for you to send to Hugh Wilson in reply to his letter of May 12, or do you want to dictate personally the instructions you wish to send him?

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
From Hugh R. Wilson,
May 12, 1936.

Sumner Welles

U SW:IJ

A true copy of
the signed original
is filed.

[from Safe]

June 10 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the request contained in your memorandum to me of June 8, I am sending you herewith a suggested letter for you to send to Hugh Wilson in response to his letter to you of May 12 last.

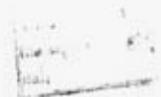
Believe me

Faithfully yours,

Samuel R. Kelly

The President,
The White House.

copy in the file



RECEIPT

DATE June 14 TIME 11:15

RECEIVED FROM U - Mrs Woodell

ADDRESSED TO Hugh Wilson

TO BE SENT Berlin pouch

WLD
CR

June 10, 1936.

My dear Hugh:

The question raised in your letter to me of May 12 is an important one. If the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg can be properly regarded as merely a political party meeting, such as the Democratic or Republican National Conventions in the United States, it seems quite clear that you should not attend the meeting.

However, the State Department tells me that last September the formal invitation to the diplomatic corps in Berlin to attend the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg was issued by the Chancellor of the German Reich and was transmitted through the German Foreign Office, and that, with the exception of four chiefs of mission (of whom only two failed to attend because of political considerations), all of the chiefs of mission were present. I am further informed that for internal purposes the Nazi Party and the State in Germany are one by virtue of the law of December 1, 1933, which provides that "the National-Socialist Labor Party has become the organ of the State policy and is indissolubly united with the State".

In view of these facts, it would seem to be definitely established that the Nazi Party Congress is an official Government celebration. If you coincide in this interpretation and if you are officially invited, I think you should attend.

I think you are doing very well in very difficult times.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

The Honorable
Hugh Wilson,
American Ambassador,
Berlin.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

Berlin, May 12, 1938.

Dear Mr. President:

The question of my attendance at the Nuremberg Party Rally early in September has been giving me some thought. As you remember, Mr. Dodd never attended, but the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Gilbert, attended last year in Mr. Dodd's absence; also last year, for the first time, the French and British Ambassadors attended. I should personally like to attend and would not consider myself any the less a firm believer in democracy for looking upon the evidences of an autocracy. It would also be a good opportunity to get to know a lot of men who are not very accessible in the Capital. On the other hand, I realize that my presence might be embarrassing to you, if I were subject to attack in the American press for attending the rally.

My boy from Yale spends the summer with us and I could have a good excuse for sailing home with him about the 1st of September if you think it advisable to miss the rally. I am writing thus early about it because of the difficulty of getting accomodation on boats at that time of year. If you see no particular objection to my attending the rally I shall not visit the United States until perhaps late in November.

I should appreciate it very much if you could have a telegram sent to me giving me the benefit of your views on this matter.

I shall of course take up this matter with Mr. Hull in due course, but should much appreciate your advice if possible before that.

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very respectfully yours,

HUGH WILSON