

German Chargé d'Affaires: Essary interview

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 14th, 1939.

No. 1413

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith an extract from the Washington Times Herald of the 3rd December containing an interesting account of an interview with the German Chargé d'Affaires, in which he predicted that Russia would "move down the Continent through Roumania" and would aim at "full control of the Bosphorus". The interviewer, Mrs. Helen Essary, is a local journalist who generally devotes her daily column to less serious subjects and has no special reputation for trustworthiness as a reporter. But from what she has subsequently said in private conversation I believe that on this occasion her account can be regarded as accurate. It would seem that Dr. Thomsen knew perfectly well that his remarks would be published, although I understand that when the Turkish Ambassador telephoned to the German Embassy to ask what was the significance of Mrs. Essary's report, he ^{was} assured that it was quite inaccurate and that Dr. Thomsen's remarks had in any case not been intended for publication.

2. The German Embassy have also drawn unfavourable attention to themselves in connexion with a dispute between their assistant Air Attaché and an irate local citizen who objected to the manner in which/

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,

etc., etc., etc.

FRHM:CB:AR:CL

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which the Attaché had parked his car in his back garden. Instead of keeping the incident as quiet as possible the Embassy called in the police and issued the statement that "we do not consider the affair a personal controversy but rather an issue between two governments". I have not heard what the attitude of the State Department has been in regard to this latter contention. In any case the episode has involved the German Embassy in a good deal of unenviable publicity.

3. A copy of this despatch will be sent to the British Library of Information at New York.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN