

Statement

Re: Meeting with Director Kern of the Language School Kern in Oslo on 10/14/42 in Kern's house, Josefinesgate 17, entrance on Underhaugsveien.

The SD recommended that I get in touch with Kern. I knew of Kern from a distance through my work on the pocket dictionary.

Kern has been in Oslo for more than 20 years and was the first party member of the Oslo chapter. His Norwegian wife also joined the NSDAP at the same time he did. For years Kern led the Norwegian National Group in the Foreign Organization and in particular fought a sharp struggle against the imperial German opposition group under the leadership of the German Church clergyman Günther. Kern later dropped from the Foreign Organization based, as far as I can tell, on a claim by the Foreign Office that the ambassador clearly held to the school of thought of Günther. The Foreign Office repeatedly called for the removal of Kern from Oslo. He only managed to avoid a deportation order from the Norwegian government by buying a house with 100,000 kr borrowed from Norwegian friends, as the Norwegian government could not meet the demands of Kern's Norwegian friends that the invested sum be protected in the event of deportation. For 20 years Kern has run a language school, which has been attended through the years by thousands of young and old Norwegians of the intelligentsia and with whom Kern has maintained close ties. He has maintained for decades a detailed index of all of his students and former students and is therefore in the position to provide information on the development of each one, in particular their political development and to provide precise information on their attitude toward Germany. Kern as a result also maintains close relationships with friends of Germany not belonging to the NS. For this reason, I sought him out in order to make further connections through him.

The four hour discussion served primarily as a thorough analysis of the current Norwegian mentality. Apart from that, Kern came repeatedly back to the topic of himself and his work, in particular the situation that arose for his language school after the foundation of the German Academy, as the German Academy – that is, Huhnhäuser and Pudelko – with their totalitarian endeavors sought to take out the Kern school, so that he will have to wind up decades of work when the German Academy is really functioning well, which is in no way the case currently.

The following emerged as crucial points of the discussion:

- 1.) Intellectual substance is only represented in small part in the NS. Those who really mean something in Norwegian intellectual life, in particular the university professors and professional teachers, stay apart from it.
- 2.) It is certainly possible to enter into dialogue with these groups as well, as many of them are quite ready to engage in intellectual communication with Germany. They simply do not want to be exposed and as a result marked.
- 3.) In Kern's opinion, several of this group could very well be won over by proceeding carefully, that is following our plan to build a professional centralized institution created by Norwegians,

preferably without being tied completely to the party or the state. Kern assured repeatedly that he has carried out the same plan since the beginning of the occupation, as far as he was asked, without having been even once understood in this respect (whether that is correct, I cannot judge). Kern explained that he feels very confident in predicting success in this regard even simply through calling on his broader circle of acquaintances, but he would like to warn against going about this task with the usual German pace. The Norwegian mentality is characterized by the greatest slowness and laxity, so that success can only be won here through a plan stretching for years to come.

- 4.) Kern is very ready to put his house and his connections at our disposal for our work. It was however evident in this willingness that he hopes thereby to gain a certain opportunity for himself and his school. As a result, his offer should only be acted upon with caution. The crowding out of Kern by Huhnhäuser and Pudelko is for this reason very unfortunate. As the shutdown is far reaching, Kern no longer has access to external means. In the case of an invitation to the Kern house, we would need to provide drinks, tobacco products, etc.
- 5.) Before further collaboration with Kern can be initiated, a more precise assessment of his personality must be requested from the SD, in particular we must investigate the background to the position of Huhnhäuser, Pudelko and the German Academy against Kern.

Oslo, on 10/17/1942

Schwalm

SS-Hauptsturmführer