

THE WINDSOR

SECRET

New Revelations of
The Nazi Connection

Peter Allen



STEIN AND DAY/*Publishers*/New York

For the Nazis to fight several successive elections, they needed a great deal of financing. There has been much speculation as to where that financing came from. Of course, German industrialists such as Krupp, Thyssen, and Farben provided millions of marks, and countless thousands of small businesses provided accumulated millions, but this did not account for all the money. There is strong evidence that the Nazis had also attracted a very substantial amount of international finance, especially from Britain and France.

In mid-1933 Rosenberg made a second and last visit to Britain. It was on this occasion not an outstanding success, however, because by then the Nazis were firmly in power and Rosenberg's innate pomposity and blundering got the better of him. He could not resist spouting tactless remarks about the Jews, which were then reported in the press. Despite this setback, his visit included one particularly noteworthy event: He spent an entire weekend at the palatial home at Ascot of Sir Henry Deterding. Several newspapers gave reliable accounts of the visit. *Reynolds Illustrated News* wrote: "In the light of the present European situation, this purely private talk between Hitler's foreign adviser (Rosenberg) and the dominant figure in European oil politics is of profound interest. It supports the suggestions current in well-informed political circles that the big oil interests have been closely in touch with the Nazi Party in Germany."⁸ Another source claimed they had met in 1931 as well—perhaps the reason for the drive into the countryside that had so pleased Rosenberg?

The meeting between Rosenberg and Deterding was significant because Deterding was one of the wealthiest men in the world, and it is a fact that in the 1930s he loaned Hitler between 30 and 55 million pounds. His clandestine meetings with Rosenberg, though, gave little indication of the plots, intrigues, and secret transfers of money that were occurring between Hitler and Deterding. Deterding's oil business had suffered severe financial losses as a result of the Soviet takeover of his interests in Russia, and he was, per se, another dedicated anti-Communist.

Why should such substantial men as Deterding, Dawson, and Beaverbrook, and many others, go out of their way to aid Hitler? A rowdy political pariah until quite recently, Hitler

had been a figure of fun in his ill-fitting raincoat, porkpie hat, and silly mustache. F. W. Winterbotham, who, as we shall see, was to spend a great deal of time in the Reich in the 1930s and met frequently with both Hitler and Hess, explained it:

The reader must realise that the Nazis, who were themselves daily gaining experience in the battle for men's minds, saw at much closer quarters than ourselves the tyranny of Communism, the massacre of farmers, and intellectuals, the police state in which families were made to spy on each other and where murder was the reward for one word out of place. In those early days the Nazis felt that they had saved their country from Communism, they could not understand why we too were not violently opposed to Stalin's regime. They felt that we should welcome the destruction of the Bolsheviks. Some of them even felt that we should help in this anti-Russian drive; or, if we would not offer positive help, then the least we could do was to stay neutral and well out of the way while the Nazis got on with the job.⁹

By the end of 1933, then, the Nazis were firmly in control of Germany. The Communists had been smashed, and an enthusiastic new Nazi dawn was well risen. It would be a few years before Hitler would be able to rebuild his Wehrmacht to the point where he would begin to flex the Nazi muscle and start his territorial expansion along the path eastward. Nevertheless, he must have been well satisfied with his progress. When Rosenberg returned to Berlin after his May visit to Britain, he took back a great deal of hope for friendship from the people who counted in Britain, and soon that connection would be extended firmly and decisively toward the throne itself, with considerable success. Hitler's plan to keep Britain out of the next war seemed well on the way to success, and the events of 1935 and 1936 were to confirm these hopes and lay the foundation of his intuition.