

HITLER OPENS WAR AGAINST COMMUNISTS

Arrest of Every Member Having Governmental Connection Afoot

PLOTS ALLEGED TO DESTROY PROPERTY

Buildings of Reichstag Partly Razed by Fire Last Night

LATE BULLETIN

BERLIN, Feb. 28. (U. P.) — President Paul von Hindenburg signed a decree tonight completely abolishing all constitutional safeguards for freedom of the press, speech and assembly. Postal and telegraphic privacy was abolished and the death penalty established for a long series of offenses, including assaults on the person of the president or members of the cabinet.

By ERIC KEYSER

(United Press Leased Wire)

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—The Hitler government today ordered the arrest of every Communist connected with the government for alleged complicity in a terrorist plot which began with the attempted destruction by fire of the Reichstag buildings. A ban on the Communist and Social Democrat press was decreed by Hermann Wilhelm Goering, minister without portfolio in the Hitler government.

Blame Communists for Fire
Goering charged that the Reichstag fire was part of a plot for a Communist uprising which had as its goal destruction of all government buildings and "the wholesale looting of Berlin."

Evidence uncovered today indicated that the Reichstag fire, which left the main hall of the legislative building a mass of charred ruins, but which spared the library of the historic edifice, was deliberately set by a Dutch Communist named An Der Lubbe, acting in concert with a number of other conspirators.

Police reported that after the fire was discovered, men were seen rushing through the building with lighted torches in their hands.

Van der Lubbe said he had no confederates in his attempt to destroy the government buildings.

"We are ready to fight to the utmost any attempt against the state's authority," Goering's official communique said today.

"It can be stated now that the first attack (of the Communists) has been parried. The entire Berlin police force is in readiness, and auxiliaries are being mobilized. Warrants for the arrest of two Communist Reichstag deputies have been issued for complicity in the Reichstag fire.

"The prohibition of the Social Democrat press includes periodicals, posters and handbills.

"The fact that Van der Lubbe confessed his connection with the Social Democrats establishes the united front in of the Socialists and Communists."

Reign of Terror Planned
Simultaneously, police revealed that a raid on Liebknecht House, Communist headquarters, last Friday uncovered "instructions" for the beginning of a widespread reign of Communist terrorism throughout Germany, with the hope of civil war to follow.

Goering's communique said the plot disclosed in the Liebknecht house raid included plans for the destruction of all government buildings, museums, castles and modern power plants throughout Germany.