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BRITISH UNION THE CHURCH AND GERMANY

THE enemies of the British Union are at present making a great deal of the religious situation in Germany. The Pope's recent declaration has been used as a weapon against the British Union by those who deliberately misunderstand the policy and spirit of British Union and by those incapable by nature of understanding.

If every church were closed and every priest and pastor in Germany imprisoned by direct decree of Hitler, the course of the British Union would not deviate by a hair's breadth from our creed of religious toleration, nor would the loyalty of its great membership be shaken. For the British Union was conceived by Britons for Britons, and alone of political movements in this country owes no allegiance to foreign powers, be they governments or financial groups.

Let this be clear: we consider Fascism and National Socialism to be the creed of the Twentieth Century. The conception of union of the people, love of country, social responsibility, national integration, chosen leadership, which forms the motive force of the Fascist and National Socialist Movement throughout the world, remains a good conception, whether or not it is effected without abuse in certain respects.

We frankly and openly admire the way in which Hitler and Mussolini have united their peoples. We admire the enormous improvement in social services, in standards of living, in roadway construction, and in the spirit and morale of the people. The British Union intends, in a British way, also to achieve these things, but in a far greater degree, as befits a far wealthier and more powerful nation, with a natural genius for adaptation and improvement. But the curious folk-lore ideology of certain sections of the Nazi Party, which is purely local and German in character, and affects both the

Catholic and Evangelical, finds no shadow of response in British Union, and as a result these troubles in no shape or form will at any time arise in this country. That such troubles exist cannot be denied.

The charge has been made, without satisfactory answer, that parish magazines are prohibited, that religious teaching according to the parents' belief is excluded from youth organisations, that pornographic caricatures of clergy are freely circulated in certain papers, that Papal Encyclicals are confiscated, and in general the desires of parents to bring up children in the religious atmosphere of their choice are interfered with. These things are alien to British character and tradition, and will at no time find any place in British Union policy. As friends of Germany we deplore them because they deprive her of powerful support against the disruptive forces of the world which her general policy would command and deserve, and weaken the forces of European regeneration in the struggle against Red anarchy.

Therefore it is our ardent hope that the genius of the Führer and the common sense of the German people will find with sympathetic response from the wisdom of Catholic authority a solution to a dispute which at present brings joy to none, but the jackals of Judaic Communism.

In conclusion let it again be emphasised that it is a complete misunderstanding of the British Movement to imagine that we should attempt to impose on the people a form of Government and ideology taken in any way from a foreign country. That which is admirable in the outside world we will always adapt and improve. That which is bad or contrary to the character and customs of Britain, forms no part of our aims, and will have no place in the Greater Britain of the future.