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Prof. D. Adolf Keller, D.D.

Geneve, 1e March 24th, 1939

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The Rev. Dr. H. S. Leiper  
Federal Council,  
297 Fourth Avenue, NEW YORK

This is very confidential

Not to be published

Dear Friend Leiper,

The mail is leaving for the "Normandie" in a few hours and I must be very short.

I had the visit of a very high standing German, whose name I am not allowed to give. In position, knowledge and contacts in wide circles, even in the high quarters of the army, I may compare him with Schacht, but superior as to character and a fine Christian man. I learned from him that the situation in Germany is nearly intolerable from many points of view for the whole finer element in Germany. I enclose a statement of his, which shows his spirit. It can under no circumstances be published or be alluded to. All these circles are afraid to-day that the great powers will again deal smoothly with the boy Absalom and not use their moral, economic and strategic power as they could for liberating the world of a night-mare. These circles hope that a pressure from outside will help them to make order insight. A very effective pressure could be used by refusing to furnish raw materials, by refusing to support prestige and perhaps by addressing the oppressed nations directly.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in his speech before the House of Lords two days ago had evidently similar things in mind. My German friend hoped I would go at once to Rome and transmit this statement to the Pope, to whom Canterbury made also an appeal. I could have access to the Vatican, but find it too dangerous and a little bit too naive to hope that the Pope could start such an action.

At any rate, something is brewing in Germany, and it would need perhaps not more as in our Swiss alps a strong voice to wake up an avalanche in the German people. Could you let President Roosevelt know about this important statement? But for Heaven's sake, don't let it fall into wrong hands.

Strictly confidential

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1177 I dont think the Pope would begin his reign with such  
an action.

Yours ever

ADOLPH KELLER

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According to K. von Klemperer (Smith College, 1978)  
the "high standing German" mentioned is Carl Goerdler.

Curator.

June, 1978.