

Memorandum by the *Gauleiter* of Styria (Austria)
regarding the solution of the "Gypsy Question", submitted
1939, Berlin

Cable address: Gou Gras Graz, Lanhaus, Herrengasse,

Deputy *Gauleiter*

Graz, 9 January 1938

Reich Minister Dr. Lamers,

Berlin W 8

Dear Reich Minister,

In the enclosure I beg to submit to you my newly edited thesis on the Gypsy problem.

Heil Hitler,

(Signature) Portschy

Deputy *Gauleiter*

Enclosure

The Solution of the Gypsy problem.

How urgent it is, to solve the Gypsy problem, is obvious from all these considerations. Up to date, it was possible to hear various opinions as to what that solution, should be like. They are to be quoted in detail here because they show, in how blind and corrupt a manner the matter was tackled by the politicians of the System.

1) The Gypsies are to be absorbed into the entire German nation. They should become assimilated. They only number 8.000 in the *Burgenland*, and could easily be absorbed by the German people, without any harm to the latter. This opinion sees above all that the approx. 8.400 settled Gypsies in the *Burgenland* are not the only ones, and that thousands of their race are wandering about the entire territory of the Reich. It is true that today in the face of the awakening of racial consciousness in our German people, this view is only being defended by unscrupulous scoundrels, who do not want to recognize the importance of the purity of the blood. This is the Liberalistic "solution" which is founded on belief in the oneness of humanity and assumes

hostility towards every race-conscious people. Its proponents were the open enemies of the German blood and people. It was of Communist and Jewish international origin.

It presumes familiarity with the pernicious dogma: One man is like another: it does not enquire into the qualities, descent, race, character and blood of a man. It therefore operates purely superficially according to figures only, with the aim to even out human societies, to equalize and thus to violate Nature's most primitive and at the same time most holy laws. That solution would by no means destroy the Gypsies. They would seemingly disappear. In reality, however they would pollute our blood, a danger which would produce catastrophic effects, particularly in the border region. We know to-day that there is no such thing as mixing of blood, there are only groupings. The Gypsies would therefore continue to exist in the half, quarter- and eight-Gypsies, and greatly endanger the cultural level in the border region. The unity of the German national soul would be lost. A split people would originate and the *Burgenland* would within one century have ceased to be the bastion of German custom in the South East corner of the Third Reich, but become the gate for the Asiatic invasion. In this manner our enemies would accomplish their intention to jeopardize the solid German settlement area in our South East corner. It is therefore a cause for rejoicing that throughout these decades our native German farming population has not only not attempted to mix with the Gypsies, but even repudiated such occurrences very sharply. If for all that occasional cross breeding can be observed and blend heads are occasionally found in the Gypsy camps, this is due not so much to sexual intercourse with the Gypsy women on the part of peasant people, but on the part of the completely depraved intelligentsia.

It is clear that this type of solution would constitute the greatest crime against our German border people in the South East of our glorious Reich.

2) The Gypsies should be settled in a solid group somewhere in the country. They should be given land in order to make them into farmers and to give them the chance to learn to love their work on their own land.

Some people hoped that the laziness of the Gypsies could be removed and actually considered giving the corner around the *Neusiedler-Lake* to the

Gypsies, a region which after being drained would be fertile enough to support the Gypsies.

This idea is even more absurd. Anyone who knows the Gypsies, knows that they are a people of nomads, not of peasants.

As already described, the wandering instinct always drives them from village to village, and even if they follow a decent occupation for a decade, they all finally end up in the Gypsy camp.

3). The National Socialist solution of the Gypsy problem for reasons of national hygiene, because the Gypsies are known to be suffering from hereditary diseases, and as a people of habitual criminals and parasites to untold damage to our national organism and greatly endanger the purity of the blood of the German border land peasantry, as well as their way of life and legal order, it is necessary first of all to prevent them from reproducing their kind and to subject the existing ones to a strict labor duty within the framework of a labor camp. Voluntary emigration abroad should, however, be left open to them.

This aim cannot be brought about on the basis of, or in pursuance of, existing laws unless they are modified. If they were interpreted completely conscientiously and strictly, they would only permit of half measures in the Gypsy question. Either the present laws must be interpreted that liberally so as to allow for a contradiction in their wording, from the start or a special law must be issued. The latter appears to me politically unwise. The reasons for the sterilization can from the start be silently understood to cover the Gypsies, so that on the basis of the already existing law for the prevention of progeny with hereditary diseases, alone it is possible to combat the reproduction of the Gypsies, by a method which really holds out the promise of success. We have to use the above mentioned law as a welcome tool and apply it in a courageous and determined manner. In this way, the foreign countries and their press would at least not be furnished a reason to set up a howl, as one can take the attitude, that the law for the prevention of progeny with hereditary diseases equally applies to German Reich citizens. In that way, the principle of the democratic countries, about the equality before the law would be fully respected.

According to the principle that in a civilized state, but even more so in the Third Reich, only he can live who also works and produces something, the Gypsies would have to be subjected to permanent labor duty, of a type suitable for them. In this way, men and women would have to be placed in separate institutions for forced labor or labor camps. It would be dangerous to let the Gypsies work individually in private enterprises or on farms. They must definitely be employed on their place of work in closed groups. The element of force is necessary already for the one reason that all previous efforts failed miserably to make them accept permanent employment voluntarily. The Gypsy will only work, if he can be sure to hear the crack of the whip, if necessary. The most suitable occupation for the Gypsies is doubtlessly digging, drainage, the straightening of river beds and wood cutting, while they are failures in the other branches of agriculture. The fact that also in the sphere of music they do not achieve anything in the end goes to prove that they also perform music not from any artistic inclination but only for mercenary reasons. In the Third Reich there is an abundance of the afore mentioned work. The food basis for the German people could be broadened and improved through the work of the Gypsies, so that the Gypsies who are already in existence could be enabled at least to earn their living by the labor described. If, however, they had at the same time the possibility to multiply, their integration into the labor process would only produce criminal if not crazy results.

After having had a proper training, the Gypsies could also be kept in closed hutments during the winter and be successfully employed in various trades. Of course, they would never have to be left to themselves. There would not have to be any leniency where they are concerned.

By no means, however, would it be necessary to torment or torture the Gypsies thus employed in any way. On the contrary, as they produce values, although under the threat of the whip, they could be decently fed, clothed, looked after and housed. Further civilizing efforts would be senseless, as they are not meant to live for long in the German territory, where they would always take the work from workers of German race, and because a solid people, free from infection by any foreign organism, has more chance of success in the fight for survival.

The voluntary emigration to foreign countries would have to be kept open under all circumstances. If for no other reason, because... if carried out

completely, it would, provide the earliest complete solution to the Gypsy problem. Secondly also because the German nationality of many Gypsies is extremely doubtful. We would have to take this point of view even if we had a labor shortage. If there is a shortage of workers of German race in Greater Germany, foreign workers of kindred races would have to be employed first in the heart of the Reich. The family polity, which is being operated successfully at present, should, however, remove the possibility of a labor shortage through the increase in German offspring.

Later on, after the German Reich will have acquired some colonies, the emigration of the Gypsies there would be worth considering. In view of the fact however, that we do not possess any colonies as yet, I just pointed to this idea.

b) The Enactment of special legal principles

1. Sexual intercourse between Gypsies and persons of German blood must be subject to heaviest punishments and be classified as the crime of race pollution. Any one who knows the Gypsies' character and realizes that they are a race which drags down the standard of everything human, will definitely have to classify them as at least as low as the Jews in every respect.

2. The Gypsies are prohibited from attending the public grade school.

3. In the case of Gypsies, house and body searches may be carried out without further formality.

4. The Gypsy huts, which are a shame to civilization, have to be broken up and the Gypsies themselves have to be transferred to labor huts.

5. They are to be prevented from pursuing any private occupation outside their labor camps.

6. Gypsies must not be taken care of at public hospitals. They are exclusively under the medical care of the institution or labor camp.

7. No gypsy may bear arms for the German nation.

Only by effectively preventing their reproduction, by forcing them to work and to remain in labor camps, and by encouraging their voluntary emigration abroad shall be able to ride ourselves of the Gypsy plague, and only thus can the overburdened German border communities be saved from that scourge.



This type of solution alone deserves to be seriously considered and examined. It is the National Socialist solution, and thus the only real solution.

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