

THE OSLO UNIVERSITY CRISIS

396  
1943  
7041

Report of a discussion between Skancke and the Deans of Faculty.

On Friday September 25, 1943 all the Deans were summoned to a meeting with Minister Skancke. Besides the Deans and Skancke there were present Hoel the Rector and undersecretary Pedersen from the Church and Education Department. The meeting lasted from 12.02 to 2.05 p.m.

Skancke began by emphasizing the disadvantages attaching to the fact that the reception of students in the faculties which have a numerical limit (numerulus clausus) is only done on the basis of their place in the matriculation exam (artiumskarakter). He maintained that these disadvantages had a specially unfortunate effect in existing conditions. He quoted the letter of June 12 1925 from the medical faculty to the University authorities, a letter which he considered confirmatory of his own opinion.

Monrad-Krohn observed that no doubt the medical faculty had on that occasion stressed the disadvantages attached to the place in the matriculation exam as a basis for reception, but all the same the conclusion of the faculty was that it accepted the system in spite of its deficiencies.

Skancke. But anyhow the defects of this system have been pointed out by the University, The rule now introduced has the object of curing these defects so far as is at present possible. What is required is to get in now those who have qualifications for study, "the most talented students". Many considerations here suggest building on something else besides the place in matriculation. One is that school education is at present bad - not least because of the congestion of schools. Another is regard for the interests of outside students (privatister). A third consideration is locality, i.e. division of the students according to districts of the country. Students from the northern districts have difficult conditions for study. Added to these is the need to train people for the civil service. The University must take charge of this service, and the state had a claim to get able people. As things are at present, it seems to be usual for educated people to sabotage state posts, "whatever the reason may be". Skancke had considered the idea of making the students sign an undertaking to apply for state positions at the end of their studies, but he had abandoned it.

He stressed that there was no aim of a political nature in the new rule. He himself considered that in the long run a bad service was done to the party by forcing upon the University members of Nasjonal Samling. He was definitely against anyone gaining admission to the University simply through becoming a member of the Party. "The Rector will confirm that that is my attitude". He had had a hard job to get the organisations of the party to understand this point of view. He had had a lot of trouble with it. The considerations which were to weigh in the reception, beyond the place in matriculation, would therefore apply equally to a member of the NS and a non-member, "but there will be an idea of taking into consideration whether a man who is a member of the movement has been impeded in his work". In the letter from the faculties to the Department it is said that "the University must have security in regard to regulations on the same lines as previously." This means that merely the place in matriculation is to be taken into account. But then there will be nothing left for the faculty to control. On the whole, the Department "cannot agree to this". It is for the Department to draw up the regulation. The old regulation is repealed. The new regulation will be applied to the reception of students who are to

commence their studies from January 1944. So the only question is as to the attitude of the University teachers when the education of these students is to begin. "How then am I to interpret the final passage?" I have taken it as a threat to strike. I will first ask the Deans of the three faculties which have limited entry. This applies first of all to the medical students. So I will first address the question to you, Professor Monrad-Krohn.

Monrad-Krohn wished first to speak of the general observations used by the Minister in his opening, and would begin by expressing his pleasure that political considerations were ruled out. But he could not conceal that he too had felt great bitterness at the fact that the regulation was issued without the University having been given the opportunity of expressing itself. There was hardly another university in the civilised world to which this would have been done. Besides, it was accompanied by a letter which must be regarded as a challenge. There is no one in the University who is unwilling to accept the written statements of the head of the Department and the Rector, but this has not been supplied in a regular form. These gentlemen can disappear, they may get the proverbial roof-tile on their heads (a reference to Ibsen's Doll's House - translator) or they may be replaced by others. "There are perhaps persons who will make efforts to get into the places of these gentlemen." So we have no guarantee. He had no authority to speak on behalf of the University. But this was the way in which he would interpret the letter and the reaction of the University. It was also necessary to remember the interferences which had taken place earlier; he referred to the 10 medical students who were advanced to the head of the waiting list.

Skarcke. "That was in the past. That was an unfortunate episode. It was just a thing like that which the new regulation was to cure. "Security for the future" is a thing which we can consider later on. The question now is admissions this year. "This year I and Hoel are here", and I must know what is meant by the concluding passage in the letter. I will have an answer, yes or no, to this question. "Before I can go any further", I must know whether this is intended as a threat to strike. The Deans themselves have signed it, and they must be able to answer so far as they individually are concerned.

Monrad-Krohn. In a discussion like this one must be allowed an opportunity of making general observations. You said that no one applied for state appointments. If the state carries on a health service under expert control and with adequate conditions of work, he had no doubt that the state would find all its posts filled. We must not judge the conditions on the basis of the present period of crisis.

Skarcke. The University completely ignores the fact that we have a period of crisis now. In normal times the new regulations would have been laid before the University. But if I had now laid the new regulation before the faculties "I should only have got a blank rejection". I cannot be content with general observations, but must have a clear and definite answer. Is this regulation to be considered unacceptable? Is the idea that I am to abandon hope of services of the university teachers if the new regulation remains in force? Does it mean resignation?

Monrad-Krohn That depends on what the Department is going to do. The regulation is unacceptable. But if it is amended, and the written assurances of the Rector and the Minister are worked into it, then and not till then shall I be able to make up my mind as to what I will do.

Skanke. Conscience is always being put in the foreground. Each individual Dean must be able to answer as to whether he is willing to continue. It is of decisive importance for the University, and it is of great importance to each individual. "Before anything done about it", I wish to be informed whether conscience prompts you to resign your offices. (To Monrad-Krohn)-What will you do?

Monrad-Krohn. May I ask what is meant by the hint as to the importance of the matter to every individual?

Skanke. The legal provisions which we have will be used to their full extent, but then the matter will have got into other hands.

Monrad-Krohn. My answer will entirely depend on how the declarations (of the Minister and the Rector) are worked into the regulation. If they are worked into an amended regulation in a satisfactory manner, and the University can work undisturbed, I think that both I and the majority will continue our work.

Skanke. Who is going to disturb you? These new students? Anyhow I shall not disturb you.

Monrad-Krohn. I wish to say nothing as to that, until I see how it is worked in.

Skanke. I wish to hear the attitude adopted by the individuals present.

Monrad-Krohn. Why have we been summoned as Deans?

Skanke. You are acting here solely as a Professor. What will be the attitude of Professor Monrad-Krohn?

Monrad-Krohn. I can say no more. Only after the regulation is amended and the declarations of the Minister and the Rector incorporated, can I adopt an attitude as to what I will do.

Skanke. Such an evasive answer will be regarded as a threat to strike. Such an attitude will have consequences for the University and the students, and for you yourselves, gentlemen. You know the new law. What will be your attitude, Professor Solberg?

Solberg. I cannot accept the regulation in its present form. It is obscurely drafted and contains everything and nothing. But if the interpretation of the Minister and the Rector are incorporated in the regulation, then I am sure we can reach a satisfactory result. I have expressed the same view to the Rector. I can therefore see no reason why I need resign my office.

Skanke. What will be your attitude, Professor Ivar Krohn?

Krohn. I assume that we shall have an amended regulation with among other things the declaration of the Minister and the Rector incorporated, and then there is surely no question of a strike. No one in our faculty has said a word about striking.

Skanke. I repeat that an evasive answer will be regarded as a strike. What will be your attitude, Professor Magnus Olsen?

Magnus Olsen. The question of strike or no strike must not be discussed now. The concluding passage in the letter from the faculties must be read in its context. The question of yes or no will not arise until - (is interrupted).

Skanke. According to the Faculties' letter, there is only to be talk of the procedure which has hitherto applied, i.e. merely

Magnus Olsen. The word "procedure" does not merely mean the place in matriculation. The whole final sentence must be seen in its context, the last section must not be severed from the first. In the first section is stressed the necessity for security.

Skanke. So then you are going for a strike.. What is Professor Howinckel's attitude?

Howinckel. I have regarded the final passage as expressing a simple truism. It is a statement of the obvious fact that it may be assumed that the Department has no interest in compelling a man to remain in his office if he gets into practical and conscientious conflict with it. Here in Norway it has always been not merely a right but also a duty for an official who is no longer in agreement with his official duty to apply for discharge. It has for example always been regarded as wrong conduct here in Norway for a clergyman to stick to his position when he has reached disagreement with the doctrines of his church, either on grounds of faith or morals.

Monrad-Krohn. The word "strike" has not been used by us here. I must protest against an answer being put into our mouths which I have not given. The word "strike" has been introduced by the Minister, not by us. None of us have threatened to strike, and we will not be manoeuvred into a strike situation at which we have not aimed. But today we have been exposed to threats.

Skanke. I call this a strike. It will be regarded as a strike by "the others" (? the Germans?).

Monrad-Krohn. An authentic interpretation of the contents of the letter ought to be given by the committee which drafted it. I can only interpret it according to my personal understanding of it at the time I voted for it.

Skanke. I need not use the word "strike". I can use the word "sabotage". What is your attitude, Professor Frisch?

Frisch. First, with regard to "strike" or "sabotage". Those who at the moment have the power in their hands can of course interpret these expressions entirely as they please and act accordingly. They are in a position to treat those present as they like. We must take the consequences of it, and answer in accordance with our consciences. We have been summoned to this meeting in our capacity as deans, but we are now faced with a demand to answer what we mean to do as individuals. It is rather a curious method of procedure, but all the same I will answer for myself. The important side of the case to me is not the detailed provisions of the regulation. I can quite imagine the possibility of a regulation prescribing that weight should be attached to other things besides a certain number of marks in matriculation. But I attach importance to the point that all such considerations must be expressed in the rule, and in such a way that personal caprice is as far as possible eliminated. The selection must be made as far as possible according to fixed rules. I think there are great possibilities of adapting an elastic formula which has regard in all cases to all the points which have arisen in this discussion. We must not shrink from making the regulation rather comprehensive. There are such great advantages in eliminating subjective caprice so far as possible, and we must use all our efforts to achieve this. I should hold this view regardless of who is to undertake the selection. Even if they give us Rector Seip back, I would protest against his having an extensive authority over the selection. Let me use

an analogy from the economic sphere. In industrial life, I am willing to approve regulating provisions, but I consider it important that that these should as far as possible be preparations of the construction of the machinery, not surveillance of the engineer. So an alteration in the rules for admission (of students) can well be imagined, a fixed number of marks in matriculation is therefore not a question of conscience to me - and presumably not to my colleagues. But the whole of this case must be looked at in the light of the way it has been conducted. We have seen how the Department has attempted to introduce political considerations, and we see today how the Deans are exposed to cross-examination in which it is attempted to impute to us intentions which we have not got. This is a method of procedure which is not that of a civilised legal community. All this makes me see that the University as a scientific institution is in danger. And so the case becomes a question of conscience. What was the foundation of my life's work is taken away, and thus I cannot avoid drawing the conclusion, regardless of what results this may have for me personally.

Skaucke emphasized the difficulties of laying down all the considerations which should be taken, in the form of a regulation.

Frisch. My experience from work on similar questions in the sphere of statistics is that one can often get much further than at first sight seems possible.

Mowinckel. It appears from the letter of the faculties and from this discussion that we have no objection in principle to the drafting of a new regulation on admissions, and for my part I see no objection to taking into consideration also such matters as outside students. But the assumption must be that these things can be incorporated in the rule itself, so that chance and subjective choice are as far as possible eliminated. It must be possible to find a formula safeguarding the different considerations mentioned by Frisch . . . . . (At this point, says the report, a lengthy and to some extent discursive debate took place between the Deans on one side and Minister Skaucke on the other).

Skaucke maintained, inter alia, that "the University now intends to indulge in politics just like the Church, which has never done anything else. Even the Pope has begun now"; and further that "you want to drive me into a corner". If the students, who are accepted and are to begin e.g. in the chemical laboratories in January 1944 do not get any teachers because these resign, and if we get another man he will perhaps be stopped, then this is a strike. It is for the Department to decide the rule. Why do you come and demand "security" from the Department?

Frisch. Because we have experience of encroachment.

Skaucke. What (encroachment)?

Frisch. The conflict with the medical faculty.

Skaucke. If you want security, I must also have security on my side too. I must know if I can count on the University teachers in January. The Department has decided that the new regulation is to be put in force now. That is a fact which must be reckoned with. (in reply to a question, Skaucke however declared that it was his wish that work at the University should go on peacefully and smoothly).

Monrad-Krohn. We have found it difficult to appreciate that, during this discussion.

Skaucke. I will wash my hands of all responsibility for "what will happen" if the University is upset. "When you leave this

Frisch. It is impossible for us to have this responsibility when each of us has merely been confronted with a personal question. We have no authority to bind the University.

Skencke. I have knowledge that there are forces within the four walls of the University who are working for a development which will lead to the closing of the University.

Several Deans. We know nothing about that.

Skancke. The Germans wish to have these forces stopped, and they will be stopped. The Reichskommissar considers a matter of this kind within his province. If anyone is trying to drag out the affair, counting on the Germans being out of the country in six months time, that also is a matter in which the Germans will be interested, and which they will get stopped. For that matter, I cannot understand why you should have any objection to the new regulation, if you think the war will be over in half a year. "Then no doubt everything will be changed again".

Frisch. But the question of principle?

Skancke. I have been blamed for postponing admission from autumn 1943 to January 1944: I have been able to give a technical reason for this, but I cannot now come and say that there is to be a further postponement. That would be thought queer. So the new regulation must be applied to the admission of those students who are to begin their studies in January 1944. "A demand for this has been presented".

Ivar Krohn. It may well happen that the German authorities agree that the regulation shall first be applied in the autumn of 1944. How will that affect the case?

Skancke did not answer.

Solberg. Who is it who has presented this demand? The occupying power?

Skancke. No, it has (hesitation) been put forward from government quarters.

Ivar Krohn stated that in his faculty the written declarations by the Minister and the Rector had been understood to mean that the new regulation would first be applied to those students who sought admission in 1944. Several of the other Deans confirmed that they had understood it in the same way. Skancke protested against this interpretation.

Monrad-Krohn. Also, apart from the Rector's supplementary statement, the following observations can be made: An admission rule which assumes the sending in of applications in July and is not passed to the University till August or September cannot of course come into force till the next July.

Ivar Krohn with the support of several of the other Deans stressed the same point.

Monrad-Krohn. The students who (in accordance with the University's advertisement and before the transmission of the (new) regulation) had applied on the basis of the old conditions for admission, have in all decency a claim to be accepted in accordance with these (old conditions).

Skencke. Yes, that is what they think.

Monrad-Krohn. You hinted that you knew of forces inside the University whose activities might lead to its being closed. I

have reason to believe that from a certain quarter activities are being carried on which may lead in this direction, viz: by that member of the medical faculty who belongs to your party. The speaker wished to recall what happened last year, when the person in question went to Minister Skancke with a wholly misleading account of what had occurred at a meeting of the faculty. And after what happened at the last faculty meeting this year, Monrad-Krohn thought it possible that the same element in the medical faculty had tried to stir up German authorities against the University by a misleading report to similar effect. The activities of this member are on the whole the greatest obstacle to peaceful conditions of work in the medical faculty and in relation to the authorities.

Skancke fully realised this. There was on this point "no difference of opinion" with regard to the person in question, and Skancke himself was not liable to be influenced in this way. He would strike down such elements, whether within or outside of the party.

Monrad-Krohn. But this person can create difficulties elsewhere. It would be an advantage if this member could be excused from attendance at meetings of the faculty.

Skancke. I have nothing against such an arrangement, but that must be for the University itself to settle. I have difficulties enough here in any case.

When Skancke had several times indicated that the interview was at an end and it looked as if the discussion had reached an impasse, Under-Secretary Pedersen produced an "intermediate proposal", since he "thought there was no special opposition to the technical point of view." The proposal was that the Deans of the three faculties together with Hoel (the Rector) should produce a draft of an amended regulation where notice was taken of the views which had appeared, inter alia in such a way that the above-discussed written declarations by the Rector and Skancke should be incorporated in the rule, and so that the regulation could be used in the admission of those students who were to begin their studies in January 1944.

Hoel agreed to this proposal.

Skancke accepted the proposal. Mentioned that an attempt should be made as far as possible to fix rules for weighing the different considerations besides the places in matriculation. "We must see how far we can get by this road".

Monrad-Krohn maintained that the students who had sought admission this autumn had done so on the assumption that the old regulation applied.

Hoel replied that there was no obstacle to accepting 54 in accordance with the old regulation, i.e. examination place, but that it might be possible to accept a further number in accordance with the provisions of the new rule. So far as could be understood there was nothing to hinder the contingent acceptance of a few more than the 54 who were fixed.

Skancke had no observations to make on this, and asked Monrad-Krohn if a few more could be admitted in addition to the 54.

Monrad-Krohn remarked on this that an addition to the 54 would increase the waiting lists.

Skancke. Will such an amended regulation be approved by the faculties?

Frisch. Such a formulation of the rule can well be imagined as would be acceptable.

Lourod-Krohn. It is probable that such a formula can be found, if there is good will on the part of the Department.

Skranke. But if we try to find such a solution and it fails, and we arrive at the beginning of term in January, then it will be a catastrophe.

Frische. Yes, then it will be a catastrophe.

Solberg. The provision that there shall be no political consideration must be incorporated in the rule.

Skranke. Nasjonal Samling must not be mentioned there.

Frisch. Of course, the name Nasjonal Samling must not be there, but it must be expressly laid down that political considerations are not to apply. So the word "politics" or "political" must not (sic) appear.

Skranke would prefer that this did not appear either.

Lourod-Krohn. The wording of the regulation may be postponed for later discussion.

Hoel, urged that an alteration of the rules was greatly needed. He had himself been a "privatist" and a teacher for 10 years in two-year schools (gymnasier) in Oslo, so he had a plentiful experience of how much worse pupils from such schools were situated than those who could afford to go through the three year course. His experiences under this head had been confirmed by going through the year's applications to the Pharmaceutical Institute. "Privatists" are now practically excluded from becoming doctors, dentists and pharmacists, and this must needs be described as a great injustice.

Further, regard to locality must be paid in the selection of students. As things are at present, large parts of the country are not represented in the selection of students. Of the 40 on the calling list of the Pharmaceutical Institute, 14 are from country schools, 13 from Oslo and Akker, and 13 from other towns. The three most northerly counties are only represented by one man.

The result was that it was agreed, on Rector Hoel's proposal, to request the three faculties with limited admission (næringsklausur), the medical, mathematical-natural science, and the dental, to appoint representatives (besides the respective Deans) to discuss with Hoel the drafting of amended rules for admission. It was mentioned that it ought however to be stressed that the Deans thought it would probably be difficult to be ready in so short a time.

Oslo, September 25, 1943.

(Signed by the six Deans and the Rector, Hoel).

Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

F 371/43231

N 195  
10

**TIMES.**

Cutting dated ..... 194

**FATE OF NORWEGIAN STUDENTS**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

STOCKHOLM, JAN. 4

After a long period of uncertainty, Norwegian official circles here have acquired definite information about the number of Oslo students arrested and deported in December. Two hundred and ninety-six students were deported, about 700 were released, and about 500 are in Stavern camp, receiving normal camp treatment. Although the total number of students at the university exceeded 3,000, the Germans have not resumed their efforts to capture those who escaped the first round-up.

Of about 60 university teachers who were seized none was deported; 40 were released; and 20 are in Stavern camp. Fifteen other teachers who were arrested earlier are still in Grini camp. Some have been there since 1941.

<p style="text-align: center;">1944</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</p>
<p>Registry Number } N 195/195/30.</p> <p>FROM "Times" extract.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Dated 5th Jan. 1944.</p> <p>Received in Registry } 10th Jan. 1944.</p> <p>F: Norway.</p>	<p><u>Arrest and deportation of Oslo students.</u></p> <p>Information from the Stockholm correspondent giving figures for the numbers of Oslo university teachers and students deported, detained in camps or released since the arrests in December.</p>
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>N. 77 + 5/60/30   9-3 (1944)</p>	<p>Times' edition of 11/1 (Minutes.)</p>
<p>References.</p>	<p>See within a cutting from to-day's Times, reporting a message from the Scandinavian Telegram Bureau to the effect that <del>four hundred</del> arrested Oslo students are to be deported to Germany.</p>
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>It is not <sup>absolutely</sup> clear whether these four hundred students are in addition to the two hundred and ninety six <sup>which</sup>, according to the Times <del>edition</del> of the 5th January (within), have been deported to Germany, or whether the <del>two</del> hundred and ninety-six are included in this figure. I assume the former. M. Skylstad of the Norwegian Foreign Office agrees with this assumption. He tells me that while the Norwegian Government have no official confirmation of the latest Scandinavian Telegram Bureau message, they fear that it is only too true. This agency is German controlled and unless they have done it for some ulterior motive unknown to the Norwegian Government, M. Skylstad knows of no reason why they should not <u>believe</u> the truth on this particular matter. <u>Speak</u></p>
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">43231</p>	<p>M. Skylstad feels that there is nothing which the Government can usefully do to prevent these deportations. In particular he is against making representations to the Swedes, whom he feels have done as much as they can by their two notes to the German Government at the end of last year. I suggested that the Swedes might send a further note of protest to the German Government either of their volition or as a result of a further outburst of popular feeling in Sweden. M. Skylstad agreed that this was possible, but felt that it could do little good.</p>
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>(Index.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1/11</p>	<p><i>M. Skylstad</i></p> <p><i>15.1.44</i></p> <p>12th January, 1944.</p>
<p>Next Paper.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>42</i></p>

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Stiftelsen for norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014					

Reference:- **FO371/43231**

149

Minutes.

1945/1953

**TIMES,**  
AN 1944

M

Cutting dated ..... 194

**MORE OSLO STUDENTS  
SENT TO GERMANY**

**NEARLY 400 DEPORTED**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

STOCKHOLM, JAN. 11

It is reliably reported that the Germans on Saturday shipped another batch of the arrested Oslo students, numbering between 350 and 400, to Germany. Previously 296 had been deported. Stavern camp, where the deportees had been kept since early December, is now empty, as those who had not been earmarked for deportation were released last week. These probably numbered more than 100 in addition to the 700 released before Christmas.

The German-influenced news agency *Skandinavisk Telegrambureau* reports from Oslo an official German statement saying that the latest deportations were preceded by individual questioning of the students, who gave "very unsatisfactory" answers to questions as to whom they wanted to win the war; whether they intended to "work illegally" if released; what they intended to do should the allies invade Norway, &c. The answers were taken as "incontrovertible evidence of disloyalty."

Saturday's deportations included no university teachers, but some 60 inmates of Grini camp, including some Norwegian policemen.

It is now learnt that the *Gestapo* killed one student, who escaped from the original round-up in November, when he tried to flee from a flat which the *Gestapo* searched in December.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

396

NORWAY

Registry Number } 396/195/30.

FROM Foreign Office  
Research Department  
(communicated).

Dated  
Received in Registry } 19th Jan:1944.

N: Norway.

Arrest and deportation of Oslo Students.

Information from Norwegian documents reporting on a conversation between Chancke and the Deans of Faculty which took place on 25th September 1943.

Last Paper.

N-195.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

This record is a discussion between the Executive Council on 25th September 1943. It is a transcript of the meeting, on a transcript of the meeting of the Executive Council, 25th September 1943. The subject of the meeting was the arrest of the students who, at that time, were not allowed to have their names listed by a Ministry.

The passages marked (X) on page 6 of the report have been examined and the copy sent to the Ministry. The report will be published as soon as possible.

28 Jan/44

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

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Next Paper.

N-17110

# Manchester Guardian *M*

Cutting dated ..... 193

## GERMANS & EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

### Destroying All Culture

Dr. A. Sommerfelt, Director General of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Education, yesterday spoke at the Manchester University Union on "The universities of occupied Europe, with special emphasis on Oslo University." The meeting, at which the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. F. Jacob, presided, was arranged by the Manchester Committee of International Student Service.

Dr. Sommerfelt surveyed the effects of German policy towards the universities in all the occupied countries of Europe. He said that in the east and south-east the Germans were out to destroy all intellectual life. The inhabitants of those countries were to become hewers of wood and drawers of water. In the west, and especially the north, the people were to be assimilated and turned into Germans and Nazis. He emphasised that, while conditions in some other countries had been far worse than in Norway, resistance in Norway had had a great spiritual value, as the Norwegians had had a choice in falling to or resisting a temptation. The Germans believed the Norwegians were like themselves and near kinsfolk. It would, he said, be hard to find more different nations in Europe.

Describing the events leading up to the arrest of some 1,500 Oslo students and the deportation of at least half of them in December to Germany to undergo "new political education," he said the effect of the Swedish protest was a matter of conjecture. As the Germans had concluded their commercial treaty with Sweden, they sent the last batch of students to Germany. The Germans knew that the Swedish Government, in spite of the feelings of the Swedish people, of which there was no doubt whatever, would not risk any breach with Germany.

*cut*

Northern Dept.

GRADING: B.

NORWAY NO. 19  
4th March, 1944.

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POLITICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Political Intelligence Department, London.

From: Press Reading Bureau, Stockholm.

According to a private report from Trondheim, dated February 17th, two members of the German security police, Hauptsturmführer Hamn, and Roth, came to the High School one day in the beginning of December, 1943, and entered the office of rektor Heggstad, where two professors, one engineer and four students were gathered. They were told that they were responsible with their lives that no demonstrations, protests, or political agitation occurred in favour of the University professors and students. If any of the hostages fled, then 10 arrested students would be shot, and the fugitives' male family, including cousins, would also be shot and their property confiscated. The hostages were ordered to report themselves twice every day, including Sundays, at the High School Secretariat.

2. In consequence of these rigorous measures, no protest came from the High School. There had been discussions about launching a protest, and some NS student had reported it to the German security police.

3. In the middle January there were about 165 prisoners in Vollan concentration camp. At the end of December 1943 there were about 450 prisoners in Falstad concentration camp. It is claimed that the present German chief of Falstad is one of the best that has ever been there.

Copies of this memorandum are being sent to the Northern Department of the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Economic Warfare, Foreign Office Research Department and Lieut.-Colonel Neame.

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1944  
1944

Registry Number } 1574/195/30

FROM His Majesty's Legation, Stockholm  
No. (Communicated)

Dated

Received in Registry } 15th Mar: 1944

Re: Norway.

Arrest and deportation of Oslo students

Communicates copy of Press Leading Bureau memorandum Norway no. 19 of the 4th March to Political Intelligence Department giving substance of a private report on measures taken by the Gestapo in December 1943 to prevent any demonstrations by the High School in favour of the University professors and students.

(Usual distribution).

**Last Paper.**

N. 1340

(Minutes.)

**References.**

872,  
2016 March

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

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**Next Paper.**