[English Translation of the file: BArch R 109/1/5061, pag. 68-69.]

MESSAGE on June 8, 1939
from Mr. Stöppler to Dir. Vogel.

Concerning: Colin Ross – Film

On the basis of the documents before me, I have made the following observations:

As early as December 3, [19]38, Dr. Colin Ross wrote in a letter sent to us via the Norddeutscher Lloyd:

"Unfortunately, I had a lot of problems with my cameras. The Askania plant had handed them to me, supposedly in good order and after diligent examination. But all of them had defects, and I had to get them fixed for expensive foreign currency. I hope that I will be able to work easier and better afterwards....."

Unfortunately, this hope has not been confirmed after viewing the footage that has arrived; on March 10, [19]39, Dr. Ross was alerted to the detected flaws in a letter sent via the Norddeutscher Lloyd, New York; the message reads:

„Apparantly, there is a defect in your equipment, especially in the hand camera. At any rate, the transport mechanism does not work correctly, since the shots are consistently undercranked."

On April 13, Mr. Vietzke addresses a memo to Dr. Schilling, asking the board to consider requesting news from Colin Ross in another form.

As Mr. Vietzke explains today, they refrained from sending a cable considering the danger of bad transmission and the issue of forwarding.

On April 21, [19]39, another message was sent, this time to Dr. Ross's address in Yokohama, informing him that an entire reel of c. 250 metres, apparently again from a hand camera – footage from Washington, is completely unusable because undercranked. A copy of the message from March 10, [19]39, was attached to this letter. Eventually, on April 28, [19]39, an exhaustive report on the last shipment was sent to Dr. Ross in Yokohama, detailing the specific undercranked passages.

When Dr. Colin Ross writes that, had he been informed earlier, he would certainly not have continued to use the camera, we counter that, according to his abovementioned and only letter of December 3, 1938, he has until May 21, 1939, that is almost half a year despite our repeated requests and enquiries, not come back to us – he had noticed the defects of his cameras right at the beginning.

So, „The thought that the machine might not work properly," obviously struck him earlier than he claims now.

We have to investigate if and to what extent the Askania plant, Bamberg, can be held accountable for the resulting damage.