FOR A DIPLOMAT'S MURDER NAZI GERMANY TAKES AN AWFUL REVENGE ON ITS JEWS

The world discovered last week that parts of it are by no means civilized. The agent who brought about this unpleasant discovery was the little youth below and above. His father is a Polish Jew tailor of Hanover who had become a naturalized German citizen. Young Herschel Grynszpan quit Nazi Germany in 1936 and went to Paris “to live and work like other people, not like a hunted beast.” Last month Poland issued a decree intended to rid Poland of certain Poles living abroad. The Nazi Government hastened to deport all the Polish Jews it could lay hands on, for fear of their becoming permanent residents of Germany. One such was Herschel’s father.

Herschel told the aunt and uncle with whom he was living in Paris that he wanted to kill himself. The uncle tried to quiet him. Herschel did not come home that night. In the morning he bought a pistol and called at the German Embassy to see Ambassador von Wedemeyer. Instead he got into the office of a third secretary, Ernst vom Rath (right), a typical upperclass young German. Grynszpan fired five times, hitting him twice. Vom Rath died two days later. Foolish though his crime was, Grynszpan felt that the Nazis had given him full provocation for it.

The official Nazi reaction, however, was that this was a howling act of “Jewish provocation.” Propaganda Minister Goebbels launched one of his expert jobs of popular incitement. Hitler joined in with a harangue against the Jews. In the morning of Nov. 10 booted gangs of young Nazis appeared before the synagogues of all Greater Germany. There ensued a Terror of revenge (see following pages) that made the world shudder at the brute forces set loose in Germany.

Finally the Government fined German Jews $400,000,000, one-fifth of their total wealth. It banned them from business, from schools, from movie houses and theaters (“sitting beside a Jew is a degradation of German art”), ordered them to pay for the repairs to their stores and confiscated the insurance. The Nazis decreed also that a Jew selling his property could not charge for “good will.”

Said Herschel Grynszpan, “Is this the price for the act of one desperate, foolish man like me? . . . I have decided to fast every Monday, the day I committed the gesture.”