My dear Gerlach,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your kind letter; and don’t be offended that I respond to it only briefly on the typewriter. I am very pleased with your whole attitude towards what affects all of us. But I can say that from what I know of your character it was self-evident to me. You write, I should not despair of Germany and should stay here. This is in fact my firm intention, if I can make a living [here] and have the opportunity to work in science. I have not yet received an answer to my letter from the Ministry up to now; but be it as it may: It is an irreversible process.\[1\] I plan to stay in Göttingen for the time being and if possible to bring unfinished projects to a close, though not through direct action on my part but only through offering advice. I probably won’t be able to examine my students. Apart from that, when everything has become a little clearer I want to look around to see whether I can find employment somewhere. Though naturally, I am not thinking of a professorship but of some sort of scientific laboratory work in industry. I would like most to go to I. G. [Farben].\[2\] But I have no idea whether they can use me and whether I fit there. If I should find nothing in a few months, then I certainly would have to go abroad. But as I said, for the moment I’m not considering it.

My wife and I wish you and Ruth all the best,\[3\]
Affectionately yours

J. Franck.

17 Third Ordinance on the Implementation of the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service [May 6, 1933]


Pursuant to § 17 of the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service of the 7th of April, 1933 (Reich Law Gazette). I, p. 175\[^{[1]}\] it is decreed as follows:

\[^{[1]}\]See doc. 9 for the article describing J. → Franck’s resignation and references there.
\[^{[2]}\]On → I.G. Farbenindustrie see in particular Borkin [1978] and Hayes [1987]. Since the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service did not apply to positions in private industry, several dismissed scientists pursued this option; however, especially smaller companies sooner or later made concessions to the new government in acts of ‘good will’, and fired at least some of their ‘non-Aryan’ employees.


\[^{[1]}\]See doc. 7. On article 17, see footnote 1 of doc. 8.
In re § 1 1. Regular civil servants fall under this law. [...]

2. Also included as civil servants under this law are judges and teachers in public education, including teachers at academic universities, as well as full and associate professors who have been released from their duties. Furthermore, honorary professors, untenured associate professors and unsalaried lecturers at academic universities are considered civil servants under this law. [...]

In re § 2 1. § 2 does not apply to a civil servant who had duly attained his office but was later promoted ahead of his time for political reasons. In this case action may be taken against him under § 4.

2. Whoever has engaged in Communist activity is to be dismissed, even if he no longer belongs to the Communist party or to its supporting organizations or substitute organizations. The so-called National Communist Movement (‘Black Front’) also counts as Communist. [...]

In re § 3 1. Extramarital descent is also included in the definition of descent in § 3. The parent and child relationship in the meaning of § 3 cannot be based upon adoption. [...]

3. (1) Front-line fighters in the meaning of the law includes anyone who has participated in the World War (in the period from August 1, 1914 until December 31, 1918) as a combat soldier in battle, or who has taken part in a skirmish, in trench fighting, or in an occupation force. The entries of the wartime personnel roster or the wartime Army List provide information thereon. It is not sufficient for someone to have stayed in the war zone during the war for official reasons without having confronted the enemy.[5]

(2) Front-line fighters include in particular those to whom the Wound Badge has been conferred.

(3) Participation in the battles in the Baltics, in Upper Silesia, against Spartacists[6] and separatists, as well as against enemies of the nationalist renewal, is equivalent to participation in battles of the World War.

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2 The rest of this paragraph extends this group to supernumerary civil servants, to civil servants on probation and to aspiring civil servants.

3 On the consequences of the drastic broadening of this law’s scope see, e.g., Mommsen [1966], pp. 53ff., Mußgnug [1988], pp. 28f. The remaining amendments to § 1, affecting other categories of civil servants, are omitted here.

4 The Schwarze Front is a general name for small nationalistic and revolutionary groups, particularly the one founded by the former → NSDAP member Otto Strasser (1897–1974). Strasser left the Nazi Party on July 4, 1930, and founded an independent activist organisation of ‘revolutionary national socialists’ (Kampfgemeinschaft revolutionärer Nationalsozialisten) six weeks later, representing the anticapitalist left wing of the Nazi movement. It was attacked aggressively by the majority right-wing völkisch Nazi ideologues.

5 On the background to this temporary exemption clause, see footnote 8 of doc. 7, § 3.

6 The ‘Spartacus League’ (Spartakusbund) was a revolutionary political group co-founded in 1917 by Karl and Rosa Luxemburg advocating extreme Socialistic doctrines. The Communist Party emerged from this organization.