

Germans Outraged as U.S. Plays Nazi-Era Version of Anthem



**Deutschland, Deutschland über alles,
Über alles in der Welt,
Wenn es stets zu Schutz und Trutze
Brüderlich zusammenhält.
Von der Maas bis an die Memel,
Von der Etsch bis an den Belt.
Deutschland, Deutschland über
alles,
Über alles in der Welt!**

Berlin, February 14 (RHC)-- The German tennis association has responded with outrage after the United States Tennis Association made the embarrassing error of playing the Nazi-era version of Germany's national anthem during a Federation Cup tie in Hawaii.

The version played included the first stanza, beginning "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles," which was used as Nazi propaganda. It was dropped after World War Two.

"I thought it was the epitome of ignorance, and I've never felt more disrespected in my whole life, let alone in Fed Cup," Germany's Andrea Petkovic was reported as saying, adding that she considered walking off court before the singles match against Alison Riske.

German team coach Barbara Ritter said the mistake was "an absolute scandal, a disrespectful incident and inexcusable." The USTA tweeted its apologies, saying: "The USTA extends a sincere apology to the German Fed Cup team & fans for the outdated National Anthem. This mistake will not occur again." The Deutscher Tennis Bund responded on Twitter: "We hope so."



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