

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 1039-PS
Office of U.S. Chief of CounselSYNOPSIS

Extractions from a report on the preparatory

work in eastern European questions.

On the basis of the Fuehrer order of 20 April 1941, a conference took place with the chief of the OKW (armed forces high command) on the political aspirations of the future Reichskommissariate (Commissariats of the Reich). Referring to personal questions for the East, Keitel issued an order which makes direct transfer possible. He named as deputy and liaison officer General Jodl and Maj. Gen Warlimont. Negotiations on all problems of the East have been conducted hereafter by the representatives of the OKW with officials of my office. Another conference took place with Admiral Canaris in which it was agreed that my office should refrain from negotiations with representatives of eastern European peoples and that no political groups among the emigrants would be recognized.

Later on, the writer of the report discussed historical and political conceptions of the East with Field Marshal von Brauchitsch and Grand Admiral Raeder. It was agreed to appoint a deputy of his office to the Supreme commander of the Army, respectively to the chief quartermaster and to the army groups for the purpose of handling policies and counter-questions of the OKW.

Initially there was a discussion with Reichswirtschaftsminister (Minister of Economy) Funk with Ministerial Director Dr. Schlotterer as deputy. Continuous conferences were held with Schlotterer on war economical intentions as desired by the Wirtschaftsfuehrungsstab (economical operations staff) East. Participants were General Thomas, state secretary Koerner, State secretary Backe, Ministerial director Riecke, General Schubert and others. A far reaching agreement was reached on the work in the East. The Fuehrer will decide on the relationship of the intended Reich Ministry toward the four-year plan. Writer declared he was not considering founding an economical department in his office and that "economy" was substantially and practically appointed by him. Dr. Schlotterer for the industry and Ministerial Director Riecke for food economy would be placed into his office as perpetual liaisons for the coordination of political plans and economical necessities. Other personalities should be added at a later date if required.

As liaisonman of the Minister for foreign affairs, Privy Councillor Grosskopf was appointed to the office. Consul general Dr. Braeutigan, who had many years of experience in Russia and is conversant in the Russian language was released from the foreign office as representative for the political department. Negotiations are under way with the foreign office on behalf of the assignment of representatives to the future Reich commissioners.

State Secretary Gutterer was appointed liaisonman by the Propaganda ministry. An agreement was reached to the effect that all political and other essays, lectures, proclamations etc. would be decided upon in the writer's office. All material incoming through the propaganda ministry would be, if necessary screened here. The practical employment of propaganda will be undisputedly in the hands of the propaganda ministry. For close collaboration a personality will be assigned from the propaganda ministry to the department Aufklaerung und Presse (enlightenment and press section) of the writer's office and an additional liaisonman for the press. The complex activities have been going on for some length of time without attracting attention to the office.

Elaborate discussions took place with Reichs Minister Ohnesorge on communications and technical necessities in the future occupied territories, with Reichs Minister Seldte on the supply with labor forces, with Reichs Minister Frick, State Secretary Stuckart on the assignment of necessary officials for the commissariats. There will be four Reichscommissariats as approved by the Fuehrer. The writer will suggest to the Fuehrer the formation of 24 general commissariats, 80 chief commissariats and over 900 regional commissariats. A general commissariat would approximately correspond to a former gouvernement general, a chief commissariat, to a chief gouvernement. A regional commissariat will include three or four districts. With respect to the huge spaces involved this must be considered the minimum necessary for a future civil government or administration. Part of the officials have already been requested by the chief of the OKW.

Several conversations took place with Reichsaerztfuehrer (Reich leader of physicians) Dr. Conti, inspector for the veterinary affairs of the army and the experts of this branch. The difficulties of medical and veterinary supplies were mentioned and measures suggested to guarantee a well prepared employment of the mentioned workers after the operations had come to an end.

Regarding building and construction, a conference with Reichsminister Dr. Todt resulted in the assignment of four higher managers for construction and Dr. Todt suggested to unite administratively the whole construction work under one leadership.

Discussions took place with Reichsleiter Amann and the chief of his staff Rienhardt regarding the publication of four German newspapers in the Reichs commissariats to start with. Several papers are to be published in the respective native tongue of the country. According to the latest information, the technicians for this work are already at the border and are available at any time in order to determine whether the prerequisites for printing shops are present.

Discussions are also under way with Korpsfuehrer (Corps leader) Huehnlein and with the Reich Youth Leadership to safeguard the necessary and suitable mobilization. The Stabschef (Chief of Staff) of the SA (storm troops) was asked to commit a number of the most reliable SA-leaders for this huge territory which he agreed to do. Personnel suggestions will be submitted to the Fuehrer. An agreement has been concluded with the organizational leader of the Reich (Reichsorganisationsleiter) for the schooling and instruction of the requested personalities in Kroessinsee. Party member Marrenbach was selected by Dr. Ley to assume the leadership of the Russian trade unions in conjunction with the armed forces. Regarding the relationship of the police to the new order in the East lengthy discussions took place. Changes have been suggested by the Reichsfuehrer SS and on his order Gruppenfuehrer (Lt. Gen.) Heydrich, which in the writer's opinion contradicted the authority of the Reichs-Gouvernement in the East.

The writer received the responsible deputies of the propaganda among others Ministerial director Fritzsche, Ambassador Schmidt, Reichs superintendent of broadcasting Glasmeier, Dr. Grothe, OKW, and informed them of the necessity to screen the whole terminology of the press.

The long prepared essays on the substantial work of the Eastern questions is now on hand in the writer's office and has been transmitted to the deputies of the propaganda. Some of the copies are enclosed. They deal with the complex apparatus of the USSR, as Organization, division, economical possibilities in the East, agriculture, peoples of the Soviet-union. The Jews since 1933 in the

Soviet-Union, the Komintern since 1889, statistics on the Poll taken among the Germans in Russia, history of the Ukraine, of the Caucasus and Turkestan. Extensive works are in preparation for the foundation of legal administration, such as: German law in the Ukraine, German Art in the Ukraine, influence of the German Language on the Ukrainian language, the Ukrainians in the viewpoint of the Germans. In addition, propaganda literature on the true conditions in Germany for the peoples of USSR is being prepared. Finally an ethnological map of the East has been printed on a large scale and been distributed to all the offices. This map will serve as the basis of future fixing of boundary lines and also give clues on the boundaries of the coming Reich-commissariats.

On the basis of all these conferences which have been conducted for the greatest part by the writer the organizational work is being continued by the office and is, in as much as it is possible at all, at peak level. Aside from the General- and Chief commissariats more than 900 regional ones are planned which all must be manned by offices from the ministry of the interior, political leaders and representatives of the organizations. In contrast to the work in the West, where we can count on a civilized population and high standard of technique, we shall be forced in the East, literally to prepare and take along everything. It will not be possible to achieve that within 14 days and on this account and on the Fuehrer's order all these arrangements had to be started at this time by the writer.

The writer describes the organization of his office. He has appointed Gauleiter (District leader) and Reichsstatthalter (State Governor) Dr. Meyer as permanent deputys. A political department has been formed under Dr. Leibbrandt (Deputy Consul general Dr. Brautigam) who is in charge of propaganda material for the Russian front. He worked out a great number of pamphlets, scripts and books, both for the front and the different Russian nationalities. These drafts will be presented to the Fuehrer at the next opportune moment for his approval and will be used at a later date not yet fixed. It is also the task of the political department to investigate all those who eventually, with exception of Russians, can be used as advisors for the administration of the different nationalities. Continuous discussions about this subject are under way with representatives of the OKW, the propaganda ministry and so on. Besides a department for economical-political cooperation has been formed under the jurisdiction of Oberbereiche-leiter (Lt Col Malletke). A department of "Law, Finance, and Administration" has been taken over by Regierungspraesident (Prussian president of government district) Runte. Another department "Enlightenment and Press" has been filled with Major of the Air force Carl Cranz whose deputy will be Captain Job Zimmer man. The assignment of press chiefs to the Reichscommissioners is being debated.

Writer expects after the preliminary conclusion of the operation to report to the Fuehrer far reaching preparations have been made with the exception of some points concerning questions of personnel and matters which can only be decided by the Fuehrer.

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I, WILLARD EVANS SKIDMORE, Lt (jg) USNR, 391590 hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of Synopsis of Document 1039-PS.

WILLARD EVANS SKIDMORE
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