

Testimony of HANS FRANK, taken at Nuremberg, Germany, on 3 October 1945, 1430 - 1700, by Lt. Col Thomas S. Hinkel, IGD, OUSCC. Also present: 1st Lt Joachim Stenzel, Interpreter; and Pvt Clair S. Van Vleck, Court Reporter.

COL. HINKEL TO THE INTERPRETER:

Q Do you solemnly swear that you will truly and faithfully interpret my questions from English into German, and the responses of the witness from German into English, to the best of your ability, so help you God?

A I do.

COL. HINKEL TO THE WITNESS THROUGH THE INTERPRETER:

Q This is a resumption of the discussion we had this morning regarding the nutritional situation in the General Government of Poland. I want you to consider that you are still under oath, and that the statements you make, are given or made on that assumption. Do you understand that?

A Yes.

Q Who had charge of establishing the quotas on agricultural products that were to be produced, or would be produced and taken from the Polish peasants?

A That was determined by the Chief of the Four Year Plan, Reichsmarshal Goering, and in collaboration with him by the Minister for Food and Nutrition.

Q Was that done in a manner such as this: that is, you would be called on to furnish so many thousands of tons of a particular food,

and you thereupon allocated it throughout the General Government of Poland?

A We attempted to handle it. A drastic example of that sort was, for instance: in the year 1942, Reichsmarshal Goering simply ordered that the General Government of Poland was to provide 700,000 tons of foodstuffs, and, in addition, we were supposed to feed the military occupation forces in the General Government of Poland. I thereupon declared immediately that it was absolutely impossible and in negotiations, that lasted between three and four weeks, I was able to reduce the requirement to a basis that was more reasonable.

Q To how many hundreds of thousands of tons was it finally reduced?

A It was reduced to 560,000 tons. However, these were not passed on to the Reich, but they were also counted toward the requirements for the military occupation forces within the government.

Q In other words, a total of 560,000 tons of foodstuffs was to be supplied to the Wehrmacht and to Goering?

A Yes. However, I should say, about 80%, I should estimate, remained in the country and was consumed by the military.

Q Taking the 560,000 tons as an example, did you thereupon distribute to all the agricultural areas of the General Government of Poland a certain quota, or part of that 560,000 tons? That is, each section had to produce a certain percentage of the requirement?

A The harvest, naturally, was much higher than 560,000 tons. Let's assume the harvest of that year might have been something like 1,800,000 tons.

Q That may be true. I am just interested in the method by which the procurement was done. Did you allocate it to the various agricultural areas and call upon each to produce a certain amount of the total required?

A Yes, certainly, that was the common procedure, but, naturally, it had to be settled in such a way that, since certain districts had a large surplus and some had none, these differences had to be worked out.

Q Is it not a fact, that quotas were given that exceeded the production capacity for the individual farms in certain areas?

A Well, if the production capacity had been below the requirements, then we could not have obtained it because they could not have grown it.

Q Just answer my question, yes or no. Each time, apparently, that I ask you a question, you don't answer it directly, but go on into a speech that is not exactly germane to the particular question asked. I would like you to confine your answers to the questions that are asked, and if you wish to make any supplementary statements, I am glad to have you do it, but I want you to answer the question that is asked. The question is this: is it not a fact that quotas were assigned to areas, and to individual farms, which exceeded the productive capacity of those farms and areas?

A No; that was never done. That was, incidentally, always handled by the Agricultural Section in connection with the chiefs of

the villages, the Polish villages.

Q The Agricultural Section was under your direction and supervision, was it not?

A Yes, naturally, there was as in other cases previously mentioned, a Chief of the Agricultural Division. It was President Naumann.

Q With respect to the rations given the German population of the General Government of Poland, and the Polish population, is it not a fact that the German population was permitted both meat and eggs during a ration period, while the Polish population was permitted only meat or eggs, but not both during the same ration period?

A No, I don't believe that. There was a general standard of diet, which applied to everybody and, furthermore, what does the Colonel mean with "German population"? It is not quite clear to me.

Q The citizens of Germany, the Reich citizens, who lived in the General Government of Poland, as opposed to the Polish residents;

A Those were, inclusive of their families, maybe 20,000 at the most, in comparison to the ten millions of Poles in the General Government of Poland. Therefore, one cannot speak of a population, really.

Q Is it not a fact, that there were a number of villages in the General Government of Poland, where small farmholders and peasants, who had no land of their own, were not given food cards?

A No. That did not exist. Either he got the food in natural form, like for instance the workers in a factory, or he got a card.

Q I am speaking particularly of the Radom section.



A Which was very poor. That was the poorest region of Poland.

Q Are you sure the situation, which I just described, did not happen there?

A If so, then it certainly would have been against, absolutely, all the laws because that was absolutely opposed.

Q Provision was made, was it not, for the furnishing of milk to children under three years of age?

A Yes. I am sure of that.

Q Is it not a fact, however, that in a majority of the districts of the General Government of Poland, the distribution of milk was discontinued so that only a very few Polish children actually ever got any?

A That could have been only an absolutely isolated temporary condition, caused, for instance, by the fact that possibly the resistance movement burned down dairies, as I told you earlier this morning, but that would have been absolutely isolated cases.

Q Is it not a fact that the issue of foodstuffs, such as sugar and marmalade and flour and cereal and even meat, was discontinued for periods of several months at a time?

A That question, - that is absolutely impossible. Then the people would have starved. There always had to be a substitute. If there had been no meat, eggs would be substituted. If there were no eggs, meat would be substituted, but there was always something to feed those people.

Q Is it not true that, with respect to bread - probably the most important of the rationed foods - the German population was given pure unadulterated rye bread, while the Polish population was given bread, which contained adulterants?

A For the preparation of bread, the same standards had to be applied that obtained in the Reich. In the Reich itself, there also was no pure rye bread. We had to mix it with potatoes or we had to mix it with barley, whatever was handy. It would have been impossible to do anything else, because, otherwise, the people of the Reich would have said "You are living in luxury there".

Q Do you recall the formation of a committee to aid undernourished Polish children?

A That would, no doubt, have been in connection with the Polish Aid Committee that was created by me, and there we had done a lot in common with the Poles.

Q Is it not a fact, that the activities of that committee were discontinued in July, 1942?

A Never. That has continued until the very end.

Q Is it not a further fact that it was positively prohibited by the German authorities that any extra nourishment for Polish children be furnished?

A That was tried, but it never succeeded. The German Reich, under the guidance of Goering, always assumed that the Reich comes first and everybody else comes afterwards. Thus we have taken a lot of measures without any regard to the Reich. That holds true especially after

1942, when this awful decree came out, and ever since then we made ourselves rather independent.

Q Is it not a fact that schools, which had been opened for children who were diseased in one way or another, that is, who had delicate health, were ordered to be closed?

A That would have been possible only in the case that the Wehrmacht, the military, took away a certain school building for billets. In that case, we made the greatest effort to find another building and house these schools. Then we were very often told that there were many schools closed also in Germany.

Q The question is: didn't that occur? In other words, were these schools closed?

A I couldn't recall any particular case at this moment.

Q Is it not a fact that sheriffs, or the equivalent office, in the various districts received official instructions to liquidate any activities in connection with giving Polish children extra nourishment?

A No; definitely not, certainly not from any office that was under my control. We had over 800,000 Polish school children, and in the service of the General Government there were at least 30,000 teachers that were paid by the State budget. We provided everything for these school children, including a brand-new Polish reader, which was printed in 800,000 copies.

Q Do you remember the time when meals were served to school children at the schools?

A That was continued in various parts of Poland to the very end.

Q Is it not a fact, however, that on January 6th, 1943, an order was issued discontinuing this practice of feeding school children at the schools, and that any feeding thereafter was done in a surreptitious manner without the knowledge of the authorities?

A Not surreptitiously, certainly.

Q Was any such order issued as I have described?

A I have not issued any such decree.

Q Who did issue it, if you didn't?

A That is absolutely incomprehensible to me.

Q Weren't you in charge of the school system of the General Government of Poland?

A Exactly for that very reason I know nothing of that decree.

Q This is the first time you have ever heard of the order discontinuing free lunches for school children?

A Yes, definitely. I always had the impression that in that field, more than in any other one, one could have the feeling of having accomplished something satisfactory. In all the conversations I had with the Polish Aid Committee, that subject was never brought up for discussion. One always talked about the aid of children and clothing and so forth, but the question of nutrition of children was never even brought up.

Q Was the Krosno district within the General Government of Poland?



A Where is it? In what part?

Q I am asking you. Do you recall that district?

A I could not recall it.

Q As being within the General Government of Poland?

A It certainly was not a district. There were only five districts and Krosno was certainly not one of them.

Q What was the clothing situation for children in the General Government of Poland?

A That was handled by the Polish Aid Committee, just exactly like a lot of other problems, in negotiations with the Reich. The textile situation was quite complicated in the General Government of Poland, because we had to erect textile factories; for all the textile factories had fallen to the Reich. The greatest factory of textiles was at Lodz, and Lodz was incorporated in the Reich. Our factory at Tomazov had to be built anew. We always had to negotiate with the Reich, I mean for the importation of clothing and shoes, because we, on our own power, could not provide them.

Q In what condition was the clothing for children in the General Government of Poland? Did they have any, or didn't they?

A Certainly there was not enough clothing. There was always a tremendous demand for clothing. The bad thing was that also Bialystok had fallen to another power, to Russia. That was the second textile center. We had difficulties with that all the time, and this situation was eventually remedied by an official clothing collection which was

conducted periodically.

Q Did you ever hear of the situation where Polish children were used for blood transfusions?

A No. I know nothing about that.

Q This is the first time you have ever heard of the fact that healthy Polish children were being used in German field hospitals for blood transfusions to wounded soldiers and so on?

A Well, the very fact that the Colonel states that they were field hospitals, indicates that those measures were measures of the Wehrmacht, but such things never came to my attention.

Q They may have been the Wehrmacht hospitals, but the fact of the matter is that Polish children were used, children who lived in the General Government of Poland.

A I would beg that some tangible cases be brought to my attention, because I know of none.

Q I am asking you to recall, if you can, the reports which you received regarding this.

A Yes. I have asked myself, and I cannot remember any. We had a separate Health Division, which was headed by the division chief.

Q The districts of Poznan and Pomerania were in Governor General Poland, were they not?

A No; they were not.

Q Neither of them?

A No. The borderline ran very unfortunately, in such a way that

Warsaw lost all its supporting region. The border, the frontier - the border of the Reich, passed 19 kilometers beyond Warsaw and that created an extremely difficult situation for Warsaw.

Q Do you remember the detention center that was near Lodz?

A Well, that must have been in Poznan; that is in the Reich.

Q Yes; but you knew of the existence of that center, did you not?

A No. I know not of any such center. Was it a war prisoner center?

Q Weren't numerous deportees from German-occupied Poland sent into the General Government of Poland?

A We had discussed it already before; that was one of the most difficult things for us to solve.

Q From where did those people come?

A They all came from the regions that had been incorporated in the Reich.

Q Yes, but didn't a good many of them come from that detention center near Lodz?

A Well, of that I could not say, or give you the exact data, because all we knew was that the trains arrived and we had to provide the medical personnel and the Aid personnel to take care of these terrible cases.

Q When those trains arrived, weren't a good many of the people on them dead from privation and exposure?

A Not many, because the very first case that occurred, I used

as a reason for one of my most violent remonstrations with the Reich that I ever made, and I stopped that situation. But most of them did come from the regions of Poznan and Pomerania.

Q What were the five districts of the General Government of Poland?

A Radom, Cracov, Warsaw, Lublin, and for about two years, Lemberg, that is Galicia. Galicia that had formerly been Austrian.

Q Do you recall a trade school located at Gorlice?

A Well, that I actually cannot know. It is a city in Galicia.

Q Do you recall an instance where the students of that school, between the ages of 12 and 16, were surrounded by police cordons during school hours, thereafter taken in lorries to the railway station, and transported to a temporary camp at Cracov?

A No; of that I know nothing. It is the first time I hear of it.

Q Do you recall, further, that these children were later transported to Germany for forced labor?

A I know nothing of that. That could be one of the cases that I had already discussed once earlier with the Colonel, where, for instance, they surrounded movie houses with police and tried to carry away the spectators of the movie. That also is an example of the methods with which the police worked.

Q We have already discussed the situation regarding the destruction of the school system in the General Government of Poland. As I recall



you made a statement setting forth the efforts that you made to reconstitute it, so there is no particular point in re-discussing that at this time.

A I should like to observe one thing on that, if I may.

Q Go right ahead.

A My principal worry was the higher schools, because the elementary schools were going fairly well, but up until 1944 the German Reich government refused to give me the permission to run Polish High Schools. We had prepared even the smallest details in conjunction with the Poles, and it wound up in such a way that we passed on the entire teaching of the high schools to private institutions, and the same is true for universities. Since the universities could not be opened, I established so-called academic courses, and in these courses, we had also examinations, through which the degree for Doctor, and Lawyer, and so forth, could be issued, and the most important, naturally, in Poland were the theological seminaries. There I obtained for each bishop the right to have one theological seminary. The Papal Munzio, Orsenigo, in Berlin, expressed the gratitude of the Pope to me, personally, for having stood up for the rights of the Catholic Church in Poland so well.

Q The questions which I have asked you today regarding the nutritional situation, and other matters, particularly in connection with children, I didn't make up out of my head. They were based on material which was furnished by the Polish Red Cross.

A But the Colonel could have obtained the same reports from

me regarding the difficulties that I have had with the Reich, and regarding the requirements that were given to the General Government from the Reich; that would have made much more touching and pathetic reading. If the Colonel had had occasion to read only one of the reports that I wrote to Berlin, regarding the trains brining refugees and deportees from Poland, he would have had much more pathetic and touching reading than all the other reports he has.

Q Didn't you write a report at one time, as a matter of fact, in June, 1943, wherein you set forth some of the things about which you have spoken; for example, in that report didn't you state that the nutrition for the population of the General Government of Poland was almost completely insufficient?

A Yes, certainly, and I had to do that because otherwise Goering would have demanded, Heaven knows what, from me. I was continuously in a defensive position.

Q Didn't you state, further, in that report, that a substantial deterioration of the attitude of the population of the General Government of Poland towards Germany, had been caused by, among other things, the rigorous measures used to obtain labor forces?

A Yes. That I discussed earlier with the Colonel. That is one of the examples where the police used very arbitrary methods in obtaining laborers, but the military was not altogether innocent in this regard.

Q Didn't you state, further, that the present nutrition of the urban population, in the General Government of Poland, was not sufficient for even a bare existence?

A That statement I had to make, because just at that time Goering had made a speech on the radio, in which he said that everything but the emergency, or the last-ditch food, would be taken away from the Poles.

Q Wasn't it a fact that such conditions existed, that the food situation was not even on a subsistence scale?

A Well, I must insist that one couldn't say that; our reports to the Reich were always worded in that fashion, in order to prevent the Reich from making absolutely unreasonable demands.

Q Didn't you further state in that report, that other than Polish nationalities, in the General Government of Poland, were substantially better treated, which contributed to the bad feeling of the Polish people against Germany?

A Well, yes, that naturally is connected up with the things that we discussed this morning. That I stated in order to avoid this reproach that was always made to me, that I was keeping too much for the Poles.

Q Didn't you further state that a number of Catholic priests had been shot in concentration camps?

A Whether they were shot, I do not know, but certainly they were arrested and I protested against it all the time. I am very sure of that. I always obtained the lists of the arrestees from the Archbishop Sapicha, with whom I always cooperated in making the requests for release. He always came up to the castle and brought me the lists, and then we discussed the matter and figured out how we could get these

men released.

Q Didn't you further state, in the course of that document, that the civil administration of the General Government of Poland was able to furnish Germany with tremendous nutritional supplies to build up an armament economy in the General Government, which could be expanded to furnish millions of labor forces to the armaments and to other vital industries of the Reich, and finally to build up a smoothly functioning communications network in the General Government for the deployment of troops?

A That all was stated because I intended to change the entire policy of the Reich in regard to the General Government.

Q Is it your statement that what you reported in June, 1943 was correct?

A That there was a possibility to build up the General Government of Poland, there is no doubt about that, because up to 1943 we had done a lot. We had received machinery that was turned over to us, and we had developed the country to a fairly high extent.

Q My question is this: did you or did you not in a report, make the statements that were just given to you?

A If the Colonel has the report before him, then he should be able to draw exactly the same sort of picture that I drew in my previous statements; that is, the possibility of great reconstruction.

Q That is all right. I am asking you now, however, whether or not you made the statements in that report, that were just given to you?



A The words, naturally, I cannot possibly remember, because it is too long ago, but the contents of the report certainly were always to develop the country, and in that I succeeded.

Q And you succeeded along the lines indicated by the words that I have attributed to you in this report?

A Succeeded in the sense that for hundreds of thousands of people we have provided work and food.

Q I will show you the report some time, so that you can take a look at your own words, and see if you look at them now, as you did then. Is it not a fact that one of the policies pursued in the General Government of Poland, was that of mass responsibility; that is, if a person committed an act and escaped, why, then punishment was visited on his family?

A If such a case ever happened, then it was merely an application of a statement that had been coined by Adolf Hitler in Germany.

Q You know whether it happened or not. You were there for five and a half years. Why do you say "if it happened"? You know it happened.

A No.

Q You deny that that happened?

A Yes; I do; that it was ever done officially, I absolutely deny. What the police may have done, I cannot know.

Q Didn't you approve of the police policy in that regard, especially, in the cases of assassinations, or attempted assassinations

of Germans, or destruction of vital installations in the General Government of Poland?

A No.

Q This is the first time you have ever heard that?

A Of mass responsibility I have heard, and I remember requesting information from Lammers on whether that was actually a law, when the first cases were brought to my attention from Germany.

Q Who was Illmer?

A No; I don't know him.

Q Do you know an SS Sturmbahnfuhrer Joachim Illmer?

A No.

Q He was the commander of the Sipo, and the SD at Radom on 18 July 1943.

A I know nothing of him. The personalities of the police and the SS were never given to us. If I ever got to know any of the names, it was always maybe in connection with some general list of them, but officially these people did not belong under my jurisdiction.

Q Well, let me show you what Illmer said about you. I show you a photostatic reproduction of a document dated 19 July 1944, purporting to bear the signature of Illmer. This document is identified for the record as L-37. I ask you to read that document and see if you can identify it after you have read it?

A (Examining document). The Reichsfuehrer of the SS has ordered this in accord with the General Government. That is a typical case. I never was given any knowledge of this law, and I have never learned

of it. I wish that the Colonel would turn to all my collaborators, to my entire staff, to find out whether the Reichsfuehrer of the SS, in any single relation to this particular document, asked my permission or authority. I am very grateful that you have shown me this document. I am very glad that the Colonel showed me this document, because it gives him an idea of the fact that the Reichsfuehrer of the SS could issue decrees, and that in order to give weight to these decrees, then he would append the ending that all this was done in accord with the General Government, without consulting me.

Q If the Reichsfuehrer SS had the authority to issue the decree in the first place, he wouldn't need to add any statement that it was done with or without your advice and consent; and if, as you say, he had that authority, then it seems to me that for him to add any such statement didn't increase that authority one little bit.

A There was no need for it.

Q Why did he do it?

A Because he had issued thousands of decrees in which this ending was not added.

Q Why did he add it in this decree, if he issued so many decrees where he didn't add your name?

A That he certainly must have done, in order to calm down the officials who were not under the police, who were under me, and who naturally would have been extremely disturbed by this kind of legislation.

Q Do you mean to take the position that the police would, with-

out your authority, put your name on an official document of this nature?

A That they have not done once, but they have done it a hundred times, and I have always had to protest against it. There have been bills posted, in which it was stated that this was issued in accord with the General Government, and I had to have these bills removed.

Q Why did they do it?

A They wanted to hide behind my name. That is what it was. This document, especially - I wish that it could be used as an example. All the gentlemen could be consulted on it, because then, possibly, we could kill this entire notion. It is terrible to be even connected with such sort of thing, and they knew exactly why they did it.

Q And yet you were there for five and a half years, weren't you?

A For five years I fought.

Q Yes; you fought what is known as a good losing fight.

A The Colonel should only investigate why I made all these desperate speeches in public in 1942.

Q This is 1944, and the report, about which I asked you, was dated 1943.

A Then you should ask Lammers, Reichsminister Lammers, why the Fuehrer had never accepted my requests for resignation, because he could not find an acquiescent person for these things, and for reasons of foreign policy I was retained on my post.

Q As a result of the application of the mass responsibility policy, is it not true that thousands of children in the General Govern-



ment of Poland were made homeless and made orphans?

A If it had been applied, or if it has been applied, it certainly had that consequence. A specific figure I have never heard officially.

Q Didn't you report in June, 1943, that one of the measures, which had led to a substantial deterioration of the attitude of the population of the General Government of Poland towards Germany, was mass arrests and mass shootings by the German police, in accordance with the system of collective responsibility?

A I certainly am convinced that I did not do that. In general, my protests were always against the measures of the police.

Q With further reference to this report of 19 June 1943, did you not state therein that one of the measures which had led to a substantial deterioration of the attitude of the population of the General Government of Poland towards Germany was the confiscation of a major part of the Polish estates and the expropriation of Polish peasants?

A That referred to one very specific case, to which I made reference then. In a certain portion of the southern district of Lublin, overnight, so to speak, the police and the SS had chased out the Polish farmers, and had brought in German settlers from somewhere in Russia, whom they wanted to settle in this area. We had to make the most frightful efforts in order to get new homesteads for these people in some other portion of the General Government. There was the same thing when the Army increased its combat training terrain. They would merely take over a village and leave to us the responsibility to provide new

homes and new homesteads for the people.

Q In line with that, didn't you state, further, in that report, that one of the causes for the deterioration in attitude towards the Germans was the encroachments that had been made upon industry, freight, and private property?

A Certainly, it happened that a train was passing, and then the police and the Army would come and clean it out completely.

Q How about industry and private property? Did you not also set forth those encroachments on those as contributing to this deterioration of feeling towards Germany?

A Encroachments? It wasn't exactly anything in the way of expropriation, but rather sort of temporary occupation of an industrial concern, if the industrial owners were in the occupied territories; that was more or less along the same lines as what was being done by the military government everywhere, and even at present in Germany. For instance, in the case of the Hermann Goering Works, they would merely come in and take over a certain industrial establishment that possibly belonged to the General Government, and in that case there would be long negotiations in order to safeguard the administration of this factory independently. I recall one incident where an industrialist came from the Reich and offered me 3,000,000 zloty for an industrial establishment that would have been worth 30,000,000 zloty, and naturally I balked at that sort of an arrangement.

Q Included in these measures, which had led to a substantial deterioration in the feeling towards Germany was the extensive paraliza-

tion of cultural life. Do you remember that?

A That was my continuous fight. I, for instance, endeavored to re-open the theatres, and I created a Polish Philharmonic Symphony, and I endeavored to revive all these cultural efforts, but the Reich Propaganda Ministry opposed that and continuously tried to curb all cultural enterprise. That became particularly acute when the theatres and the concerts were closed in Germany and, naturally, one demanded the same thing from me in the General Government, and I turned it down.

Q Do you remember including in these measures also the closing of middle schools and universities and the limitation, even exclusion, of Polish influence in the civil administration?

A I have always endeavored to create, parallel to the government of the Governor General, a native Polish government, and this was at all times stopped by the Berlin government. Probably, the Colonel was referring to that because actually there were about 200,000 Poles in the government, or the civil service. But no doubt the Colonel was referring to the higher sort of administration, to the effort of creating a separate government of Poles.

Q Do you remember including in those measures, the fact that Catholic influence had been restricted, including the closing and taking away from the Catholic Church monasteries, schools, charities, and various institutions, in many cases with only a moment's notice?

A Wherever I could, I would stop these things, but the Colonel must remember that whenever I tried to stop any of these efforts, then

one would answer me saying that the same measures had already been taken in the Reich, and that it was merely an effort to create a parallel system of legislation in the Reich outside in the General Government. For instance, the sanctuaries of Poland, in order to protect them, I had placed under my personal protection. For instance, the monastery of the Camaldulensian monks and the sanctuary of Czenstochawa were under my personal protection, but on the other hand, one must realize that when the military entered into a city, then the monasteries or the schools or the churches would immediately be taken over because they were the only stone buildings. Everything else would be of wood. Then my efforts would be to try to protect these things and to take them away from the military; naturally, I had not always success.

Q Do you recall setting forth in the course of this report, that the mass shooting of hostages mostly missed the real culprits, and that in many cases the victims of the shootings cannot even be regarded as accessories, because unarmed as they are, they are subject to the arbitrary peril of the guerillas?

A I have the definite conviction that the shooting of hostages is the most awful thing that anybody could do.

Q What happened in the General Government of Poland with respect to that?

A What went on there is all laid down in my files, and it must be realized that when we first came into Poland, the situation was one of an absolute disorder and lawlessness. The military and the SS and the police were absolutely at their will in carrying out measures with-



out any control from our side, but, gradually, that situation improved. Whenever I learned of any such case, I merely started an investigation and, normally, after two or three days, I would be informed that the culprits had been removed or shot.

Q Isn't it a fact, that the system of shooting hostages was in effect in the General Government of Poland?

A The contrary is correct. That was obviously the system that was used in the regions that had been incorporated in the Reich and, naturally, one should never forget that all these things were always brought up in connection with the resistance movement. One must not forget that during those five years, a total of perhaps 8,000 Germans had been killed.

Q My question is: were hostages shot in the General Government of Poland?

A No. I must say no. It was not a system. I must deny that absolutely and vigorously.

Q Why did you mention it at all in the report that you made, if the system was not in effect?

A Even the fact that it was in the report is already untrue, because I always protested against anything that looked like violence, and because I considered that my particular task and duty to report.

Q I don't understand why you put it in the report that we have been discussing, if the system was not in effect in the General Government of Poland.

A It was not a system. It couldn't be a system. It would have been isolated cases, but in isolated cases, one single case would be enough for me to mention in a report and protest against it.

Q We have been discussing this report for quite a while and we have gone through the substance of it, through interrogation. I now show you a carbon copy of a forty-page report; the 41st page is the distribution list of a report dated June 19, 1943. I ask you to look at the last page thereof, and indicate if that is not the way that you indicated on copies of reports, that the report had been prepared and submitted to you? For the record, the report is identified as 437-PS. I ask you to look at the last page and identify the arrangement and wording appearing there, as being the usual manner in which you concluded reports, and the typed signature placed on the copies thereof?

A Well, that "Gez Frank" is not normal, because I normally signed reports myself.

Q This is a carbon copy; naturally, you signed the original.

A Copies would normally be certified. Normally, the thing would be certified by the Chief of the Chancellory, and would state that this report had been signed in orderly fashion by the Governor General, but with this, I do not wish to say that this might not be genuine.

Q You read the report and see if it is not one that you prepared and addressed to the Fuehrer.

A That could quite well be the report.

Q Is it or isn't it?

A The general picture that I have, shows that it would be the report.

Q Do you positively identify it as the report?

A The thing that comes to my attention, and is somewhat surprising, is that at the end the signature is not certified.

Q My question is this: do you positively identify that copy before you, as being a copy of a report prepared by you and sent by you to the Fuehrer?

A That obviously I cannot do because I do not have the original.

Q Read the report and see if you cannot remember it.

A But I would like to state in that period, I have made a report to Adolf Hitler.

Q Read that report, and see if it isn't the report that you did send.

A Obviously, there seems to be no page missing and the typing looks the same.

Q You may read it, if you so desire, in order to assure yourself that it is a copy of the report that you signed. (Passing document to witness).

A If all the things opposing violence and so forth, are mentioned in this report, it certainly is mine.

Q Read it and tell me whether it is or is not, not whether it

may be or whether it could be. I want to know whether it is.

A If the Colonel so desires, I am perfectly willing to say that it was the report. However, I must say that unless I had the original, I couldn't actually say that this is the actual report; but I do remember distinctly that at that particular time, I was compelled to send a cry for help to the Fuehrer, and I never received an answer to it. I received a report from Minister Lammers that he would present the report to the Fuehrer, but I never heard anything further.

Q It isn't what I desire, or what I don't desire, with reference to this report. The thing that I am interested in is whether it is -- and you can so state positively -- a copy of the report that you did submit. The only way that I see that you can determine that, is to read it, and see if it doesn't refresh your recollection, as to what you sent the Fuehrer on the 19th day of June, 1943.

A As a matter of principle, I could not confirm the copy of anything on which I do not have the original, but, as I repeat, we want to go ahead, and I am perfectly willing to state that this is a copy of the report. The object of this report was absolutely clear.

Q I invite your attention to the handwriting appearing under the heading on the first page "Der Generalgouverneur" and ask you if you can identify it?

A No; I do not. I do not know from whom this comes.

Q That is merely a file symbol there?

A This certainly was not marked down like that in Cracov.



It seems to be a mark of the officer that received this report, for it is not at all usual that one would write that thing under my name.

Q Is there any doubt in your mind as to the authenticity of that copy, which is before you?

A That is exactly the question that was addressed to me (referring to the document). There was a Polish organization that had turned to the Fuehrer for cooperation against Russia.

Q The reference you have made to a question appears on Page 2, does it not, of the report before you?

A Yes.

Q You do recall that that question was presented to you?

A No. I think that it was more general. Everybody was supposed to take a position on that question. Naturally, I could have answered that question on one page, but I thought that this was a good occasion to call to the attention of Adolf Hitler the situation as a whole.

Q Then you do recall writing that report, the copy of which is before you; is that right?

A It is difficult to say. I certainly would like to say, in connection with the entire contents of it, that it is the report.

Q Is there any doubt in your mind, as to whether it is or is not your report?

A There are always the same complaints that are formulated (referring to the document). It is a pity that the original isn't here. The original must be with Adolf Hitler.

Q That may be, but my question is whether there is any doubt in your mind as to whether that is a copy of the original, which was submitted to Hitler?

A Let's say it is a copy.

Q Is there any further statement you wish to make with reference to this report you have just identified, as being a copy of the report you submitted to Hitler?

A Observations regarding the contents of this report?

Q I am giving you an opportunity to make any further statements that you would like to make regarding it. I don't want you to make a speech on it, but if there is something you can state briefly and succinctly, I would be glad to hear it.

A Then the Colonel should observe that, naturally, in the making up of such a report, the principal objective would be to word it in such a way that the Fuehrer would even read it. Therefore, it is a piece of evidence that has to be evaluated diplomatically and, therefore, I should like to add that all the effort that I mentioned in this report had also to be pursued in other ways, because this would never have been adequate.

Q You didn't state any untruths in that report, did you?

A Various points were somewhat exaggerated.

Q There were some points substantially true, though, were there not?

A To me it was most important to bring about a complete change of attitude in the treatment of the General Government by Adolf Hitler.

Q The statements contained therein were substantially true, were they not?

A The content of the document was such that I mentioned all the principal points that worried me.

Q My question is this: you have stated that parts or statements contained in that document were exaggerated. My question is: whether or not the statements contained in the report are not substantially true.

A I must say that in the great lines, in grand contours, the situation was like this, but I naturally always had to consider the things that Hitler might get as information from the SS and from the police and from the military.

Q You don't say now that the things contained in this report are untrue, do you?

A Completely untrue, no, but they are occasionally exaggerated.

Q Would you like to take the time to go through and point out those things which you consider to be exaggerated?

A Yes. I wish to say that my aim was to bring about a complete change in policy and there were many points in which I was absolutely impotent.

Q Just point out the parts of the report that you think are exaggerated.

A The entirely inadequate food supply was exaggerated. Point one is the inadequacy of the food supply. My principal objective was to reduce the demands of the military.

Q The witness is referring to a statement contained Page 10

of the report. Now, what is the next one?

A The next point is also on Page 10, the confiscation of a large portion of Polish real estate; for certainly, even afterwards, the existence of very large Polish real estate did continue. For instance, when the Army wanted to set aside some training terrain, then they were always figuring that the Governor General could dispose of many, many square miles.

Q What was the next point?

A We had about 18 training areas for troops, which more or less amounted probably to about 300 square kilometers.

Q Never mind going into such details. Just point out the sections.

A For instance, reference Point Three, naturally, I always opposed the confiscation of small businesses for in Germany, for instance, they had large shoe industries; whereas, in Poland, they had only very small cobblers, therefore, the existence of these small shops was essential.

Q That refers to Pages 10 and 11 of the report.

A The fourth was the problem of the police and of the shooting of hostages.

Q In what way are these things exaggerated, that you have stated in the report were exaggerated, that is in what I am interested.

A It was exaggerated in the sense that somebody could derive from this report, the idea that all great real estate had been elimin-



ated, or that every day mass recruitment of forced labor took place, or that every day there were mass arrests and mass shootings, and that naturally was not true.

Q It did happen, though? They did happen on occasion, did they not?

A Naturally, those things did take place, but the Colonel should also remember at all times that for the SS, the term "General Government" did not exist. The SS called itself "SS Command East".

Q Are there any other statements contained in the report which you consider to be exaggerations, other than those which you have pointed out thus far?

A Does the Colonel want me to go into any details?

Q I don't want you to go into so many details; just point out those parts that are exaggerations and in what way they are exaggerations.

A The paralyzation of cultural life, the closing of theatres, all those were the points in which I was fighting continuously with the Reich.

Q The witness is again referring to Page 11 of the report.

A My entire intention in enumerating these points, would have been that if the Fuehrer had followed me on these proposals, then education and tranquillity in the General Government would have been possible.

Q Have you now completed your statement with reference to the report?

A Yes. The Colonel should also consider this report a source for information as to what difficulties I had in the General Government.

Q That will be all for now.

APPROVED:

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