

35,02

GOERING QUESTIONS

23 November 1945

A. Not exactly in these words you have used - the armament was independent of these reasons. The primary purpose was to make it possible to ~~rearm~~. It would still be necessary to rearm whether or not there existed the question of Austria, Sudeten or Danzig. Re-armament was necessary independent of these aims. We would have re-armed because of the position of Germany in the center of Europe. Germany had to be strong either to be aggressive or defensive depending on circumstances. But apart from the question of war, economic consolidation would have been necessary. We did not have enough gold or enough foreign exchange to buy as we wished in foreign markets.

~~But~~ the premise of any foreign policy was to be equal to our neighbors — because it stood for a strong Germany, re-armament and concentration of ~~population~~ that was why I joined the party. *5 hours*

~~When~~ ~~was~~ ~~considered~~ ~~of~~ Re-armament and economic policy both would have happened irrespective of the Austrian and other questions or if there had been no danger of war from Russia.

But obviously these problems did exist as did the danger of war with Russia.

~~and~~ you had already stated in 1936, had you not, that war between Russia and Germany was inevitable. And even before that - would you say 1932 - you held that view?

Hitler agreed with you?

Yes - it was his
first as ~~and~~ prince

These thoughts were in your mind when you took charge of the Four Year Plan?

Yes -

You never hesitated to state them openly and publically?

No. I took about them very often

Do you doubt that the defendants here have heard you say so?

Yes. I cannot state specifically what I am

And so you will better understand the reason and purpose of my acts, let me explain to you. I adhered to Hitler not only because of my oath. I tied my destiny to that man and when I go down I shall still be loyal to him. I have many honors, but my greatest title was given by the German people, when they called me "the most loyal Paladin of the ~~excellent~~ Fuehrer". My popularity consisted in comparison with other men in the party - I was not a radical - nor was I a brutal man.

No matter what he did to me, I never would have raised my hand against him or plotted against him.