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OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY
INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

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SUMMARY.

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Conflict between Jodl and the Fuehrer
Fall of 1943
Handwritten document by Jodl.

The conflict that arose between Jodl and Hitler in the fall of 1943 in Winzgar began when Jodl submitted to the Fuehrer a memorandum in which he reviewed the recent commands given by the Fuehrer and carried out by Halder. Jodl did this because Hitler, who at that time appeared to be ill, frequently found fault with operations for which he himself had given oral command to Halder (p.1).

The rift widened when Jodl, after a meeting with Konrad and List in Stalino, asked the Fuehrer to reconsider his order to launch an attack in the Caucasus with the help of the Alpine Corps under command of General Konrad. It was the considered opinion of Konrad, List and Jodl that such an operation would not meet with success in view of the terrain difficulties (p.2).

The Fuehrer reacted violently to this suggestion, and in a fit of anger accused Jodl of insubordination. From this day on his attitude toward Jodl in particular became extremely cold. Hitler then never went to General Officers Mess but ate by himself. The "situation reports" then were transferred from Jodl's map room to Hitler's consultation room and an SS Adjutant took part in every discussion. Stenographers and assistants placed under Bormann to take notes of meetings (p.3). Jodl was told by Keitel that the Fuehrer intended to replace him by Paulus as soon as the latter would return from Stalingrad. Jodl continued with his duties despite this difficult situation. List was subsequently replaced (p.3,4).

From November 1943 on the relationship between Hitler and Jodl improved slowly, culminating in a reconciliation which took place on 30 January 1944 when the Fuehrer called him to his quarters and informed him that, although he still considered him to be wrong, he had come to realize his excellent qualities as an officer. He presented him with the golden badge of honor of the Party (p.4).

Jodl states that despite the reconciliation his faith in the Fuehrer's sense of justice had been shaken and that he continued to point out to the Fuehrer instances in which he had wronged his officers (p.4,5).

According to Jodl the Fuehrer's view throughout this conflict was that the blame for strategic mistakes must, in every instance, be placed on the military leaders, since these could be replaced, whereas confidence in him as a military leader must not be shaken (p.5).