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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

By: Lt.Col. Brookhart, 28. Sept. 1945, p.m. Nuremberg.

PERSONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

- a. Persecution of Jews in Italy
- b. Relation to Hitler (17-19); Hottel (17); Mebe (29); Neubacher (15-16); Pohl (29-30); Ribbentrop (20-21); Wenneck (17); Karl Wolff (1-4) SD (13-14,30); SS (13-14).

2. RSHA: Organization; section heads; relation of Kaltenbrunner and Himmler to its work.

- a. Amt I. Personnel; Ehrlinger (2-5; 28-29)
- b. Amt II. Financial administration; Spacil (29-30)
- c. Amt III Interior political questions; Ohlendorf (5-10,33)
- d. Amt IV. Gestapo: Mueller (32-36)
- e. Amt V. RSHA (foreign secret service); Schellenberg (15-21)

THE ARREST OF JEWS IN ITALY:

K had known General Karl Wolff since 1936; the latter had served for a long period as Chief of Himmler's personal staff and became "the representative" in Italy in 1943. K denied that he had any connection with the orders which had been issued to General Wolff regarding the arrest of Jews in Italy. K stated that the first he had ever heard of the arrest in Jews in Italy was during a meeting which he had with representatives of the Red Cross in Innsbruck (1944, April) who were attempting to have the Jews interned in Italy moved to Switzerland. (ppl-5)

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RSHA

Amt I:

This office was concerned chiefly with Personnel. (See p 28) In personnel questions pertaining to the SS, nominations, etc., Himmler took a personal interest. Himmler prided himself on handling these matters personally. K's only function in these matters was to indicate on the report which went forward to Himmler whether or not he, K, knew the individual in question, if so, his approval or disapproval. (p 28) see also pp 13-14) All matters pertaining to court judgments against "leaders" of the SD were cleared through Amt 1, Dept.1, (pp 13-14) K personally was concerned with matters

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concerning personnel for Amt 3, Information Service. (p 29) Personnel questions for Amts 4 and 5 were handled by Mueller or Nebe personally. (p 29)

Amt II:

This office was headed by Spacil; was concerned with Financial Administration. (p 30) This department required little of K's time. Most of the administrative questions were handled through this office by Pohl who was of the SS Administration and Economical Head Office. (pp 29-30) K's personal funds were handled by Amt 2, directly with the Party Chancellory which was the financial source for the SD. (p 30) The Chief of Amt 2 was responsible to Pohl. (p 31)

Gruppe II, b: K states he knows nothing of this unit. (p 32)

Gruppe II c: K states he knows nothing of this unit. (p 32)

Amt III:

Office was headed by Ohlendorf and concerned with "interior political questions". (p 15) The reports issued were generally of interest to the Party Chancellory (Dr. Klopfer, State Secretary). (p 27) In many instances matters reported by this office were taken up with the various ministry heads by K personally. (p 10) As for Himmler, the matters were generally referred to him in writing since he was seldom in Berlin. (p 11) Himmler generally received his reports from Amt 3 direct. (p 11)

GRUPPE III under Amt 3:

K states that it was on the basis of reports from Gruppe III that he made his daily reports to various ministries. (p 9) Sometimes the matter was not handled by reports rather an RSHA subordinate was directed to contact a subordinate of the ministry concerned and inform such official of the matter in question orally. (pp 9-10)

GRUPPE III A under Amt 3:

This office was concerned with "race objections" to any judgment or misjudgment of any civil judge in court"; attitudes of the population towards legislation, etc. (p 7) K repeatedly insists that this function merely involved the reporting of "public attitudes" not the application of any "executive measures".)

GRUPPE III B:

K is unable to recall its exact functions. He believes it was set up to handle "people's political questions" public reactions, etc. (p 8) To his knowledge III B was not connected with "the working out of Nazi biological doctrine (p 8)

20 July Incident: All details relating to the national reaction and the mass of information relating to an " attempted revolution" were handled by III. (p 33)

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Amt IV:

Gestapo, headed by Mueller. K steadfastly insists through out the interrogation that matters pertaining to his office were not under his jurisdiction; that Mueller functioned directly under Himmler. (p 32) None of the reports of Amt 4 were sent to him. He does not deny that such reports were probably available to him. (pp34-35)

Mueller received reports from the Field through Amt 4 relating to the security of the Reich. He was in a position to issue orders directly on the basis of these reports, e.g. " if he thought that the action they had taken was not good enough, either to accelerate them or give them any different order whenever he thought it desirable". Mueller headed his own office; K never interfered. K consistently refused to assume leadership of the Gestapo because " they took over tasks that were against my outlook on life and my disposition." (pp35-36)

Amt V:

Headed by Schellenburg; dealt with foreign secret service.

Office prepared daily reports regarding the world political situation. The reports were of particular areas in which matters of concern to the Reich were treated. K was personally interested in the Southeast particularly the Balkan question. K consulted with delegate Neubacher regarding this area numerous times. (pp 15-16)

In response to the question re his administrative control over this work of Amt 6, K answered that he frequently ordered Wanneck and Dr. Hoettl, leaders of Gruppe VI E to report to him regarding the South-east. (Later Hoettl became K's representative for a mission to Switzerland). (p 17)

K's interest in Gruppe VI E of Amt 6 was allegedly in opposition to the policy of Himmler, K strongly advocating a gradual evolution toward the Nazi concept within the particular foreign government (i.e. in the case of Hungary) as opposed to an "imposed" acceptance of Nazism. Hitler gradually came to respect K's position. However, "it was too late to make itself noticeable". Himmler watched Hitler's reaction to K's suggestions very keenly, apparently to learn whether or not Hitler actually favored K's approach. (pp 17-19)

Reports from Amt 6: Reports from Amt 6 when digested by K were returned to that office oft times with a "remark" "or with an order for a conference with Schellenburg". K generally made reports to ministries concerned in the various matters covered i.e. sanitation, traffic, food, etc. However, he seldom communicated the contents of the reports to Himmler knowing that Schellenburg and Himmler maintained close contact, by-passing K's office. (pp 19-20). Likewise, Schellenburg generally communicated the foreign reports directly to Ribbentrop over K's head. K never objected, knowing it would do no good" (pp 20-21).