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

Interrogation of Kaltenbrunner, Ernst
By: Col; Brundage, 11; September 1945, a.m. Nuremberg.

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS:

1; ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

- a.) Position in Nazi Party (pp 2-4, 15)
 - (1) In SA (15)
 - (2) In SS (5-6)
 - (3) In Security Police (8-10)
- b.) Position in Government (4-6, 8-10)
- c.) Relation to
 - (1) Himmler (8, 9, 17)
 - (2) Heydrich (9)
 - (3) Horthy (19)
 - (4) Lammers (7)
 - (5) Ribbentrop (17-20)
 - (6) Seyss-Inquart (18)
 - (7) Szalaszi (19)
 - (8) Wolff (10)
- d;) Aggressive activities abroad (18-19)
- e.) Jewish persecution (20- 22)
- f.) Relation to Dollfuss action (13)

2.) ADOLF HITLER

- a) Aggressive war against Hungary (19)

3.) ~~DOLLFUSS~~

- a.) Persecution resulting from his murder (12)
- b) " Rheinthal Committee" (12-13)
- c.) Terroristic Methods of SS (13)

4.) FESSENMEIER

- a.) Relation to Ribbentrop (19)

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b.) Deportation of Jews in Hungary (20)

5.) HIMMLER

a.) Relation to

- (1) Kaltenbrunner (8, 9, 17)
- (2) Heydrich (21)
- (3) Hitler (21)
- (4) Ribbentrop (22)
- (5) Wolff (11)

b.) Deportation of Jews in Hungary (20-21)

6.) HEYDRICH

a.) Relation to

- (1) Kaltenbrunner (9, 16)
- (2) Himmler (16, 22)

7.) HORTHY

a.) Relation to Kaltenbrunner (19)

8.) LAMMERS

a.) Relation to Kaltenbrunner (7)

9.) MULLER

a.) Relation to Himmler (22)

10.) Ribbentrop

- a.) Concentration camp (18)
- b.) Deportation of Jews (20-22)
- c.) Relation to
 - (1) Kaltenbrunner (17-20)
 - (2) Hitler (20)
 - (3) Himmler (21)
 - (4) Wolff (12)

11.) SEYSS-INQUART

- a.) Position in Government (6)
- b.) Relation to Kaltenbrunner (8)

12.) SZALASZI

a.) Relation to Kaltenbrunner (19)

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13. KARL WOLFF

- a) Position in SS (11)
- b) Relation to
 - (1) Kaltenbrunner (10-12)
 - (2) Himmler (10-11)
 - (3) Hitler (11-12)

Personal History: Kaltenbrunner is 42 years of age; married; three children.

(p.2) Education: Elementary school through technical high school (1 year) in Graz. Received Doctor of Laws from University in Graz, July 1926. (p.3)

Employment: One year "required practice" in the lower courts Linz (1926-1927). Nine years as law clerk (apprentice) in Salzburg, Austria. (p.3) Was prevented from ever entering practice of law because of administrative proceedings taken against him for his involvement in National Socialist activities (1933-1938) (see below)

KALTENBRUNNER AND THE AUSTRIAN NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY, 1933 - 1938

I became a member of the Party in 1931 (pp.2-4). Claims not to have been a member when the Party was outlawed in Austria in 1933. He had not paid his dues.

From 1931-1936 Kaltenbrunner was a legal advisor to members of the Party. Such was an honorary post. "People came to my office and I gave them expert legal advice". "I was not a Party official". (p.4)

Kaltenbrunner became active in National-Socialist Affairs in 1934, immediately after the murder of Dollfuss. The National Socialist Party was the target of "strict persecution" by the Austrian Government". Kaltenbrunner feared that the Government's policy would only give strength to the "radical elements" of the NS movement, --with the result that the radical Marxists would be the "winning party". To this end the "Rheinthaler Committee" was formed to reach an understanding with the Government. Kaltenbrunner was a member. The Committee's action was successful in forestalling a repetition of the terroristic events of 1934. (pp.12-13)

In connection with the Dollfuss affair Kaltenbrunner was taken into "protective custody" for "his own protection". (p.13) He was absolved from any connection with the matter.

Kaltenbrunner was then interned from 17 January 1934 to May 1934 with some 500 National Socialists, --this, an attempt to hamper further NS activity (p.14)

In 1935 Kaltenbrunner was charged with suspicion of high treason. He was acquitted of the treason charge. However, in the course of testimony he had admitted membership in the NS Party and thus subject to sentence under Par.186, Austrian Punishment Law as a member of a "secret gang". Kaltenbrunner acknowledges his conviction under this statute was justified since the "Party had been forbidden at this time". (p.15)

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In 1936 K's license to practice law was taken away from him by reason of his conviction . The license was re-instated in 1938. (pp 14-15)

K states that in 1938 his activities with the Party merely involved " working together with Seyss-Inquart"; that he had no connection with the SD nor Gestapo at this time, these matters being handled by Heydrich and Himmler. (pp 15-16)

KALTENBRUNNER AS AUSTRIAN STATE SECRETARY:

Following the Anschluss in 1938, Kaltenbrunner became State Secretary in the Austrian government. (p4). This was a full time, salaried position.

Function: To adjust the administrative and operational differences which existed between the Austrian Police System and the German Police. He held the position as " State Secretary" until the final development of the Austrian Land Government in 1942 (pp 5-6). In this position he worked under the Chief of the Austrian Land Government, (formed in March 1938), Seyss-Inquart. (p6) In this position he had no connection with the Gestapo or SD (then under Heydrich). (pp 15-16)

KALTENBRUNNER AS CHIEF OF THE REICH SECURITY OFFICE:

In December 1942, Kaltenbrunner was asked by Himmler " to take over the Reich Security Police Office in Berlin". He refused. (p3) In January 1943 Himmler asked Kaltenbrunner again and K refused, -- until Himmler agreed that K might take over the position as " his (my) war effort". But as such K insists (as he does throughout his interrogation) that it was not in fact the position of Chief of the Reich Security Office. Himmler retained direct (executive) control of all matters relating to the Security Police and the Secret State Police. Kaltenbrunner assumed control of the Internal Information Service (Amt 3), -- previously known as the SD, the Security Service. (pp 8-9)

Function: The work consisted of "taking an average picture of the situation of the German population and presenting a clear cut picture as I (K) saw it". (p 9) Himmler was K's superior officer. He held the position from the 1st of February 1943 to " the end". (p9) " At the end" K's title was: SS Obergruppenfuhrer and General of the Police". (p 10)

K's Reports:

In preparing reports K was principally interested in matters pertaining to the Southeast, -- reports from Group VI A. (pp 16-17). The reports related to developments in Bulgaria, Greece, etc. In the matter of " initiating action" K was required to gain permission from Himmler. If the matter, for example, pertained to the South-east he would have to ask Ribbentrop. (17) The majority of K's reports were submitted to the Foreign Office for Ribbentrop's attention. (p17)

K cites as an example of his reports one relating to his opposition to the German policy in Bulgaria, in which K voiced a preference for an alliance with Serbia in view of the fact that Bulgaria " was all prepared for Bolshevism". (p18).

His reports relating to Hungary voiced his opposition to military intervention in Hungary; that rather a policy should be established looking to the formation of a government in Hungary " that would not be guilty again of breaking a pact. (p19)

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KALTENBRUNNER AS LEADER OF THE GENERAL SS (Austria):

K states he held this position as of 1938; that the organisation, had no political duties. (p5) The duties consisted chiefly in questions of public welfare, memorials, inspections. It was a Party function carrying with it the title of Higher SS Fuehrer. K states that he never carried out the functions of the office, that he held the position merely to give him employment after the position of State Secretary was abandoned -- it was merely a titled, salaried position. (p 7)

KALTENBRUNNER AS GRUPPENFUEHRER OF THE SS.

Following the loss of his position in Austria as State Secretary (1942), he became an SS Gruppenfuehrer. Function: " making representations to the Reich and the Statthalter" on behalf of the Central Police Posts for Vienna and those Gaus. (p6)

KALTENBRUNNER AND THE JEWISH QUESTION:

K and Ribbentrop were one in their opposition to the policy of Jewish persecution followed by the NSD'P. because of the difficulties such a policy created in the realm of foreign policy (pp 20 - 21) Himmler favored the " radical procedure" of clearance of the Jews from every part of the Reich. (p21) " Himmler probably" carried through the policy of deporting Jews to the Reich for forced labor. (21) K stated that he could not say whether or not it was Ribbentrop's policy to deport the Jews from Hungary to new real countries--however, he (K) stated that " it would be the only reasonable policy".(p22) K states that Himmler was the only one that could reach any binding decisions as to the Jewish Question and therefore it was natural that no one would discuss the matter with him (K). (p22)