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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: Lt.Col.Brookhart, 5. October, 1945 p.m., Nuremberg

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

I. ERNST KALTENBRUNNER

- A. Identifies documents (1-5):
 - 1. A pamphlet on German and Austria Police Offices with prefaces of Zechenter & K (1-4).
 - 2. Document 2005, identified as Kaltenbrunner "D".
- B. Concentration camps:
 - 1. Denies:
 - a. Knowledge of Musy Mission re evacuation of concentration camps (16-1)
 - b. Receipt of application from Frank and Buhler to release Warsaw Poles (18-21).
 - c. Schellenberg statement that K, along with Mueller, was responsible for the punishment and protective arrest of important persons (25-27)
 - d. Personal knowledge of atrocities in the camps (2-6).
 - e. That he received any compensation for obtaining releases from camps (22).
 - 2. Affirms:
 - a. That, with Mueller, he evacuated some of the camps on Hitler's orders (17-18).
 - b. That alleged deportation of Jews from Warsaw was probably ordered by Hitler (18-19).
 - c. That he could not release anyone from camps; Required an order from Himmler to Camp Commanders (22-23).
 - d. That he sent to Hitler many applications for releases from camps (22)
 - e. That responsibility for punishment and protective arrests of important persons rested with Himmler, Pohl, Gluecks and camp officials (25-27).
- C. Medical experiments; Denies any connection with Dr. Karl Taubock and experiments with extracts for the sterilization of human beings (28).
- D. Persecution of Jews:
 - 1. Denies:
 - a. Knowing, Leo Gehra, Nazi Director of the Administration Office, Prague. (6).
 - b. Received a summary of the Jewish question in Bohemia and Moravia from Gunthe (7).
 - c. Knowledge of movement of some 300,000 persons from Theresienstadt to the East (9).

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- d. Knowledge of the disposition of some 17,000 houses made "available" by the Prague Office (11).
- e. Knowledge of arrangements re Jews made between Musy and Himmler (p.11-12)
- f. That he opposed the emigration of Jews, except the shipment of Jews into Switzerland (p.12-13).
- g. Knowledge of a shipment of 12,000 Jews to Switzerland (p.14).
- 2. Affirms:
 - a. That he referred to Pohl questions re care of Jewish property (p.6)
 - b. That Heydrich may have created Central Office for the Settlement of the Jewish Question in Bohemia and Moravia (17).
 - c. That responsibility for the movement of large numbers of Jews to the East rested with Himmler, Mueller and Pohl (p.9-10)
 - d. That his only connection with the Jewish problem was his relation to the Red Cross and his remonstrances against their treatment (p.9-10).
 - e. That Schellenberg had told him of plans to permit Jews to emigrate to Switzerland but he had nothing to do with these plans (p.11-12).
- E. Renumeration as Chief of RSHA:
paid by the State and not by the Party. (p.10).

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Kaltenbrunner was presented with a series of pamphlets numbered consecutively. He was asked to consider pamphlet No.3. Apparently the pamphlet contained a preface signed by "Zechenter" and another preface signed by Kaltenbrunner, which had been composed by Zechenter. The preface appearing over Kaltenbrunner's signature related to the correlation of the terminology used by the German and Austrian Police agencies. This pamphlet was prepared on Kaltenbrunner's suggestion to assist the Austrian Police in their work under German control. K stated that this manual did not become a standard work of the criminal police. He did not know how many were issued, "but in any case, quite a few". It was issued after the Anschluss in 1943. (PP.1-4)

Kaltenbrunner stated that he wished to include as part of his sworn testimony Document 2005, each page signed at the bottom "Kaltenbrunner", dated 9. September 1945. Interrogator indicated that the document was to be marked for identification as Kaltenbrunner "D". (p.5)

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Kaltenbrunner stated that he did not know of the Musy Mission to Berlin, Musy urging the Germans not to evacuate the concentration camps but to place them under special representatives as the Allies advanced. Kaltenbrunner did, however urge Burkhardt (of the Red Cross) on 12 March 1945 to send supplies to the Jewish camp in Genskirchen Austria. This would have been "to the prejudice of" Ribbentrop and Himmler. Kaltenbrunner stated that he "had no objection" to holding the Jews in place". In reply to Musy's statement that although Himmler had agreed to hand over some of the camps

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to special representatives, Kaltenbrunner and Mueller had evacuated some of the camps under Hitler's order. Kaltenbrunner denied that he had ever given such an order except possibly in one instance during his negotiations with the Red Cross in April 1945. (pp.16-17). Kaltenbrunner denied any knowledge re Musy's request for the release of Heriot former French Premier. He denies having called Schellenberg an idiot for making such a suggestion (p.18).

Kaltenbrunner denied any knowledge of the alleged deportation of Jews from Warsaw to forced-labor camps in 1944. Such instructions were "probably issued by Hitler". Kaltenbrunner states that he and Dr. Burg joined in supporting a measure, agreed upon by Ribbentrop and Himmler, calling for the release of Polish women and children.

Kaltenbrunner denies having received an application from Governor General Frank and his State Secretary Buhler, requesting the release of Warsaw Poles; that such would "have been impossible" because the people concerned were so widely distributed throughout the various camps. (pp 18-19). "I had not the slightest influence on these matters, only Himmler could decide." (p.20)

Referring to an alleged personal visit of Buhler in behalf of the Poles, Kaltenbrunner stated that Buhler came to see him about a month before the National Polish holiday but the conversation related to a desire to give the Polish people greater authority in self administration. The question of releasing Poles from concentration camps was never discussed, principally because Buhler would know that Kaltenbrunner had no authority to take such action. (pp.20-21).

Kaltenbrunner insists that he could never effect the release of anyone from the camps; that such required personal attention of Himmler an order directed to the camp Commandant. Kaltenbrunner readily admitted that he had forwarded many applications for release and in most cases Himmler initially refused the applications. However, generally, after four or five times, in some instances, he has granted them. About 4/5 or 2/3 of the applications made by Kaltenbrunner were successful. "I cannot remember a single case in which I was against an application." Kaltenbrunner insists that he never received any compensation for his efforts. He estimates that he must have handled nearly a thousand such matters. (pp.22-23).

Kaltenbrunner vehemently denied Schellenberg's statement that Kaltenbrunner along with Mueller, was responsible for all punishments and protective arrests of important persons. Kaltenbrunner stated that Schellenberg should know better in view of his long experience in Amt 6 and the Gestapo. "Such responsibility rests with Himmler, Pohl, Gluecks, the Camp Commandant and the Camp guards". (pp.25-27).

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Kaltenbrunner states that he knew nothing of the atrocities in the camps of his own knowledge. For information on such matters, which he included in his reports to Hitler, he had to rely on the foreign press. Whenever he protested to Hitler regarding these matters he was always met with reply, "that is none of your concern. This is my arrangement with Himmler and how he carries out his work is his own affair." (pp.26-28).

MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

Kaltenbrunner denied having had any connection or knowledge of Dr. Kar Taubock of the I.G. Farben Co. and his experiments with Dieffenbach-Seguin an extract used for the sterilization of human beings. (p.28).

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE JEWISH QUESTION

Kaltenbrunner denied knowing Leo Gehra, Nazi Director of the Administration Office, Prague. Kaltenbrunner stated that he knew of such an institution for the care of Jewish property; that the Ministry of Finance had asked for control of this matter and he, Kaltenbrunner had referred them to Pohl, who was in charge of that institution. (p.6).

Kaltenbrunner stated that Heydrich may have created the Central Office for the Settlement of the Jewish question in Bohemia and Moravia in Prague. He, Kaltenbrunner had nothing to do with it; that he had issued no orders or instructions to such an office; that such would have been issued by Pohl or Mueller. (p.7).

Kaltenbrunner denied ever having received a statistical summary from SS Sturmbannführer Gunthe re the Jewish question in Bohemia and Moravia although the interrogator insisted that one of the six copies had, in fact, been sent to Kaltenbrunner. (p.7).

Kaltenbrunner said that he knew nothing re the shipment of Bohemian and Moravian Jews to Theresienstadt, except for the conferences which he had with the German Red Cross about 10 March 1944. He had agreed that these Jews should be evacuated to Switzerland. (pp.8-9). He has no knowledge of the movement of some 300,000 persons who were sent to Theresienstadt and then shipped to the East. (p.9). He contended again that the responsibility rested with Himmler, Mueller and Pohl; that he refused consistently to concern himself with matters of those offices which were concerned with Jews because he was so opposed to the Nazi Jewish policy. Only "towards the end", in connection with the Red Cross, did he become involved in the Jewish problem aside, of course, from the repeated remonstrances which he constantly made to Himmler against the treatment of the Jews. (pp.9-10).

Kaltenbrunner acknowledged his duty to report on "conditions within the Reich" but insists that he had no information regarding the disposition of some 17,000 houses made "available" by the Prague office or as to what was done with the receipts for the disposition. This matter was undoubtedly handled by the Reich Finance Office. (p.11).

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Kaltenbrunner stated that he had only heard the name of Musy mentioned through Schellenberg. He never himself had seen Musy; that he knew nothing of the arrangements regarding the Jewish question which were made between Musy and Himmler. He admits, however, that Schellenberg had told him of negotiations to permit the Jews to emigrate to Switzerland. He had nothing to do with the plans since he was in no position to grant or withhold his consent for the emigration of single Jew. (pp.11-12). Kaltenbrunner, at first, vehemently denied the allegation that he had opposed the emigration of the Jews. Later he changed his pattern of defense. He recalls that he did oppose the shipment of Jews into Switzerland "because of payments." "I had heard that Musy had offered to make payments to Hitler for the release of Jews and I declared that this was dirty business." (pp.12-13) Kaltenbrunner stated that he made his position known to President Burckhardt of the Red Cross, and to Fegelein, Adjutant to Hitler. Kaltenbrunner acknowledged that possibly there had been a shipment of 12,000 Jews into Switzerland; that Hitler probably made the arrangements, but that Kaltenbrunner had nothing to do with it. (p.14).

SALARY-PAID BY THE STATE:

Kaltenbrunner denied that during the period he served as Chief of RSHA he was paid by the Party. "I received my pay from the State". He stated that he received his pay "as a soldier" because he had been "ordered" to his position not as an ordinary governmental official but by reason of his readiness for war service. (p.10)