

General Donovan

SECRET

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
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PRINCIPAL NAZI ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE COMMISSION OF WAR CRIMES

THE NAZI PARTY
(Part V)

Draft for the Use of the War Crimes Staff

Owing to the urgency of forwarding this material abroad, the finished draft has received only a cursory proof-reading. For the errors which will inevitably stud the text, our apologies.

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PART V. THE AFFILIATED SUPERVISED, AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NSDAP

Like the "formations," the "affiliated associations," the "supervised organizations", and the "other organizations" (Angeschlossene Verbände, Betreute Organisationen und Weitere Organisationen) were part of the Nazi movement but not part of the Party proper. All three, in varying degrees, represented an attempt by the Party to organize the essential sectors of Germany's professional and social life and to bring them under Party control. In this way, the leadership principle was extended to areas outside the Party, total subordination to and coordination with Party policies and principles were assured, Party control was secured on all administrative echelons of public life, and above all, control of the masses was institutionalized.^{1/}

As for the affiliated associations and supervised organizations, their establishment in effect set up numerous clauses for political organizations as such. The Party determined what type of organization would be tolerated or desired and limited the number to those explicitly recognized by law or decree. The Party Manual ^{2/} put it in this way:

"Only those organizations can lay claim to the institution of the leadership principle and to the national

1/ See Part I, F of this paper: "The Principles of Organization"

2/ Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 92

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Socialist meaning of the state and people in the National Socialist meaning of the term, which...have been integrated into, supervised and formed by the Party and which, in the future, will continue to do so.

"All others which conduct an organizational life of their own are to be rejected as outsiders and will either have to adjust themselves or disappear from public life."

Of the three organizations, the affiliated associations constituted the most homogenous group. All of them were "juridical persons" in the sense of the law.^{1/} All of them, originally were supervised by an office-usually a Hauptamt - within the Reichsleitung of the Party. Established ostensibly to guard the interests of professional groups, the affiliated associations in reality were a pretext adopted by the Party to permit it to safeguard its interests within the various professions. According to the Party Manual,^{2/} the Party did not at all desire "a corporate structure alongside the institutions of the State." Instead, the task of the affiliated associations were to be of a purely "ideological nature" and membership was declared to be "voluntary in principle." In practice, however, very few professionals dared resist the pressure exerted by the Party to "persuade" them to join the association related to their occupation.

The affiliated associations set up by the Nazis are listed in the decree of 29 March 1935^{3/} carrying out the

^{1/} Executive Order to the Law Safeguarding the Unity of Party and State, 29 March 1935, RGBl. part I, P. 502

^{2/} Op. cit., ibid.

^{3/} RGBl I, p. 502

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Law for Securing the Union of Party and State as follows:

N.S. Deutscher "Arztebund (N S League of German Physicians)

N.S. Lehrerbund (N S League of Teachers)

N.S. Volkswohlfahrt (N S Public Welfare Association)

N.S. Kriegsoferversorgung (N S Organization for War Victims)

Reichsbund der Deutschen Beamten (Reich League of Civil Servants)

N.S. Bund Deutscher Techniker (N S League of German Technicians) 1/

Deutsche Arbeitsfront (German Labor Front)

Bund N.S. Deutscher Juristen (League of German Lawyers) 2/

The supervised and other organizations of the Party, which were no less significant than the affiliated associations, had a variegated membership and a number of different functions with; Party control over them varied widely in degree.

The supervised and other organizations are listed below: 3/

Supervised organizations

Deutsche Studentenschaft (German Students' Society)

N.S. Altherrenbund der Deutschen Studenten (N.S. League of Former Corps Members)

1/ Changed later to N.S. Bund Deutscher Technik (N S League of German Technology)

2/ Changed later to N.S. Rechtswahrerbund (N.S. League of Legal Officials)

3/ For a list of the controlling offices see R&A Report No. 3113.7, pp. 11, 12 of all three types of organizations.

Deutsches Frauenwerk (German Women's Work)

Deutscher Gemeindetag (Chamber of German Municipalities)

Reichsbund Deutscher Schwestern (Reich League of German Nurses)

Reichsbund Deutsche Familie (Reich League "German Family")

N.S. Reichsbund für Leibesübungen (Reich League for Physical Training)

Other organizations

Deutsche Dozentenschaft (Society of German University Teachers)

Reichsarbeitsdienst (Reich Labor Service)

Reichsluftschutzbund (Reich Air Raid Protection League)

Volkssturm (People's Militia)

Reichsnährstand (Reich Food Estate)

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I. The German Labor Front (Deutsche Arbeitsfront)

a. General Character. Chief of the Deutsche Arbeitsfront (DAF) was Dr. Robert Ley, Reichsorganisationsleiter des NSDAP.

The DAF typified the principle of mass control by the Nazi Party. It destroyed the principle of voluntary association according to occupation or social status and it put in its place an organization without political independence but adapted to stifle incipient social or political conflict through rigid supervision. Its main function was the indoctrination of German labor with Nazi ideology. The German Labor Front was legally established by the Führer Edict of 24 October 1934, amended by the Decree¹ of 12 November 1934. The Front functioned even before its official establishment, without legal basis, as part of the machinery by which the Nazi Party first "coordinated" (gleichgeschaltete) and later eliminated² the democratic labor unions.

The Edict of 24 October 1934 defined the Labor Front as "the organization of all Germans working with brain or brawn," whose aim it was to form "a real peoples' and production community (Volks- und Leistungsgemeinschaft) of all Germans." The Front was to

"guarantee peace in industrial relations by creating on the side of management understanding for the justified demands of labor, on the side of labor understanding for the situation of management."

1. Reproduced, for instance, in Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, pp.185ff.
2. See "Crimes Committed in Violation of German Domestic Laws," R&A No. 3114.2.

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These two groups were to be represented exclusively by the Labor Front; no other organizations, such as labor unions or employers' associations, were to be allowed to operate.

Actually, these definitions meant very little. The Labor Front was not an "organization of working Germans," at least, not in the sense understood in democratic countries. The Nazi regime did not recognize labor as a separate social or economic group. The Front took care of the individual worker's grievances if he had a good political standing or if other--generally political--aspects of his case recommended such intervention. The Front did not represent business as a group, either; its interests were represented by other organizations. The Front intervened in the interest only of individual employers enforcing rigid shop discipline of his labor force or supporting his demands for maximum performance.

The Nazi claim that the Front was set up to guarantee peace in industrial relations is completely misleading. Under the Nazi legislation, particularly under the Statute for the Ordering of National Labor of 20 January 1934,¹ industrial controversies were no longer permitted. Any conflicts of interests between management and labor were solved either by the dictate of the employer or by decisions of a special set of government officers, the labor trustees.

1. RGB1. I, 45.

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In its essence, then, the Labor Front was not an organization of labor or of other gainfully employed groups. ¹ It was a huge bureaucracy carrying out the objectives of the Party in the field of labor in an authoritarian way. The main objectives for which the Labor Front was actually established were the indoctrination of labor and its political control. Robert Ley, who combined in his person the leadership of the Front with the position of Reich Leader for organization of the NSDAP, stated in his report to the Party Congress of 1936 that, at first, he had not understood the connection between his two tasks. Soon, however, he recognized that making the Party officials toe the line--his main task as NSDAP leader-- had to be supplemented by similarly disciplining the masses, and that in this respect, both his tasks were "completely identical."² He expressed the same idea in another speech in his customarily flowery fashion:

"The Party is the guardian of the faith, it is the ministry and clergy; the Labor Front is the congregation into which the doctrines must be poured. The Front is the big bond (grosse Klammer) holding the masses together."

All the various activities of the Labor Front, notably its welfare schemes and its leisure programs, such as the "Strength through Joy" institution, were subordinated to its political functions. These functions extended to the Germans working abroad and to the millions of foreign workers employed

1. For a detailed analysis of the Labor Front see Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany, Section: Labor, Chapter V.
2. Robert Ley, Wir alle helfen dem Führer, 1937, p. 23.
3. Robert Ley, Durchbruch der sozialen Ehre, 1936, p. 46.

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in Germany during wartime.

In the last phase of the war, the exploitation of labor for the war effort overshadowed all other objectives of the Labor Front. Robert Ley proclaimed "the mobilization of all labor reserves in the plants, the rational allocation of each worker, the assurance of the highest possible output" to be the only valid goal of the Front, a goal to be sought "with the greatest rigidity and severity."¹

B. Labor Front and Nazi Party

The tasks for which the Labor Front was created--political control of labor and mass propaganda--were clearly indicated by its close connection with the Nazi Party. According to the Edict of 24 October 1934, the Front was termed a formation (Gliederung) of the NSDAP, in accordance with the Act to Safeguard the Unity of Party and State of 1 December 1933.² Its status was changed by the Decrees of 29 March and 29 April 1935³ into that of an "affiliated association" (Angeschlossener Verband) of the Party. As such the Front, though subject to the financial supervision of the Party treasurer, had its own legal personality.

The close connection between Nazi Party and DAF was further indicated by the following provisions of the basic Edict:

- (1) The Labor Front was to be "directed (gefuehrt) by the NSDAP."

1. Statements by Robert Ley, quoted in an article by Werner Scheunemann in Die Deutsche Volkswirtschaft, August 1944.

2. RGBl. I, 1016.

3. RGBl. pp. 502, 583.

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The Reich Leader for Organization of the Party was, by statute, named the supreme leader of the DAF.

(2) The other leading officials were to be selected primarily from Party members who had been active in the field of labor and from members of SA and SS.

(3) The territorial organization of the Front was to correspond to the organization of the Party.

C. The Membership of the DAF

The Führer Edict of 24 October 1934 provided for two types of membership in the Labor Front:

- (1) Individual membership of persons active in some phase of the German economy;
- (2) Corporate membership through membership in another organization.

Members of former labor unions, the white collar workers included, and members of former associations of employers automatically became members, according to the statute. For other individuals membership in the DAF was never made obligatory by law or decree, but it was without doubt obligatory in fact for all who possessed the required qualifications. These qualifications included German citizenship, German descent (deutsches Volkstum), ability to work, and gainful employment, even if the latter had been temporarily interrupted by unemployment or illness. Foreign nationals could become guest members if they belonged to an organization that had a reciprocity agreement with the DAF.

1. See the rules on membership in the DAF, published in Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 225.

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Organizations whose members were corporate members of the Labor Front were, for instance, the Nazi-created organizations of trade and industry, the Reich Food Estate, the Reich Chamber of Culture, the NS Association of the Guardians of Law, and the NS Association of Physicians.

An official statement gave as the DAF's membership, as of 31 December 1942:

25,175,443 individual members;
10,700,000 corporate members. 1

Membership in the DAF had a very limited meaning. Members did not participate in any organized way in the Front's activities, which were reserved to the Front functionaries. The latter, though numerous, did not amount to more than 4 percent of all members. Being a member, indeed, meant only being subject to the controls of this bureaucracy, becoming a potential beneficiary of the various welfare schemes run by the DAF, and paying dues.

The same dues were required from foreign workers employed in Germany who were not guest members of the DAF. Racially undesirable foreigners, however, were not eligible to any of the advantages offered by the DAF and did not have to make any contributions to the organization.

D. The Auslandsorganisation

The Labor Front included in its membership the gainfully employed German citizen in foreign countries. The Auslandsorganisation (AO -

1. Speech by Reichsamtleiter Dr. Otto Geiger; BEC: ^{News} Daily Digest, 3 May 1943.

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Foreign Organization)¹ of the DAF covered all foreign countries that were in sympathy with the Nazi regime and in war-time particularly the occupied territories. Non-citizens were not admitted into the units of the AO.

The Labor Front was, however, instrumental in promoting native organizations of corresponding character in the conquered or satellite countries.²

The Auslandsorganisation of the DAF collaborated closely with the Auslandsorganisation of the Party in the political control and indoctrination of German employees abroad. As in the Reich itself, the main objectives of the DAF abroad were hidden behind schemes of social welfare and organized leisure.³

E. The Werkscharen (plant troops)

The majority of the members of the DAF were not members of the Nazi Party. To assure political control over this majority--some of it indifferent or even secretly hostile--the DAF organized its most active and party-conscious members in every plant into plant troops (werkscharen). According to an official statement their task was

"to assure the political obedience (Sicherheit) and the usefulness (Einsatzbereitschaft) of the plant community with all means and under all circumstances." ⁴

The plant troops, in the view of an observer, were

1. As to its structure, see F 2 below.
2. See "Agencies involved in the Commission of Crimes against Foreign Labor," R&A Report No. 3113.5.
3. For details, see OSS CID #77435.
4. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 196a.

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"the political leader corps of the plant organized in an educational community of soldiers." ¹At the head was the plant chief

(Betriebsobmann), a DAF official. His underlings, the plant cell and block ²chiefs, ³formed the nucleus of the troop.

According to an official report, in 1939 there were 9500 plant troops in existence. Their total membership was approximately 340,000. ⁴

F. The Structure of the Labor Front

1. General Principles of Organization. The Führer Edict of 24 October 1934 established two principles governing the structure of the German Labor Front: (a) Its territorial organization was to correspond to the territorial organization of the NSDAP; (b) Its functional organization was to be related to an "organic order of things" (organische Ordnung). Details were to be defined by the Reich Leader for Organization of the NSDAP.

Of these two principles only the first one was actually applied. If the second principle was meant to be more than a high-sounding phrase it would have required a corporate organization of the German socio-economic system. In practice the plan of such an organization was dropped early in the Nazi regime. ⁵What actually materialized along these lines were only some secondary institutions of the Labor Front that connected the DAF with

1. Otto Marrenbach, Fundamente des Sieges, 1940, p. 54.
2. See F, 2, below.
3. Organisationsbuch, p. 196a.
4. Marrenbach, op. cit., p. 60.
5. See Organisationsbuch des NSDAP, 1943, p. 91.

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the organizations of business.

The Edict of 24 October 1934 did not expressly provide for an organization of the DAF within the individual plant. Actually, the Front developed a vast scheme of representation within both enterprises and plants, and upon its delegates on this level devolved many of the day-to-day activities of the DAF, in particular the political control of the workers and of management.

2. Territorial Organization. Within the Greater Reich, the Labor Front was organized on four levels: (a) Headquarters, with nationwide jurisdiction; (b) Gaue, covering the same territories as the Party Gaue, administered by Gauverwaltungen (Gau administrations), headed by a Gauleiter. There were forty-one Gauverwaltungen in Greater Germany; (c) Kreise, under Kreisverwaltungen, covering the same territories as the Kreise of the NSDAP, headed by a Kreisleiter. There were 807 Kreisverwaltungen in Greater Germany; (d) Orte (localities), covering the same territories as the local groups (Ortsgruppen) of the Party, administered by Ortsverwaltungen, headed by an Ortsleiter. There were 27,127 Ortsverwaltungen in Greater Germany.

In addition, the members of the DAF, who were also members of the NSDAP, were organized into street blocks and cells of the DAF covering the same areas as the Party street blocks and cells. Their leaders, the

1. See F 8, below.

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Strassen-Blockobmänner and Strassen-Zellenobmänner, were subordinated to the discipline of the corresponding functionaries of the NSDAP but they operated according to directives coming from the Ortsobmann of the DAF. They did not conduct offices of their own.

Within Germany, the DAF was set up in Landesgruppenverwaltungen, fifty Kreisverwaltungen and seven hundred Ortsverwaltungen, all covering the same areas as the corresponding Party units. The structure of the DAF outside of Greater Germany also corresponded to the Auslandsorganisation of the Party. Like the AO of the Party the whole AO of the DAF was considered as a Gau. The members of the DAF employed in maritime pursuits were organized in sections and subsections (Abschnitte)¹ cutting through the areas of Gau-, Kreis-, and Ortsverwaltungen.

3. Organization of the DAF Headquarters. The Headquarters of the DAF was called the Central Bureau (Zentralbüro). It consisted of a great number of agencies most of which were called offices (Ämter). These offices were,² in turn, officially described as one of the following: (a) Führungsämter (directing offices), which directed the various functional activities of

1. The details of the territorial organization are given in the Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 218 ff. The numbers of the various units correspond to the status of 1940, as reported in Marrenbach, Fundamente des Sieges, 1940, p. 24.
2. Marrenbach, op. cit. p. 23. Details of the headquarters organization are given in Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, pp. 195 ff.

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the DAF; (b) Fachämter (trade offices), which dealt with an industry or a group of industries. (These groups were formerly described by the entirely misleading name of Betriebsgemeinschaften [plant communities]).

The Führungsämter included offices with purely administrative functions, like the Adjutant's Office, the Office for Organization, and the Personnel Office. This group also included those offices established to maintain contact between the DAF and other central institutions of government or Party, like the Wehrmachtsamt, the Main Office DAF-Reich Labor Service, or the Liaison Office DAF-Reich Food Estate.

Führungsämter actually engaged in directing significant activities of the DAF included the following: (a) The Training Office (Schulungsamt), was responsible for the political indoctrination of paid and honorary officials of the DAF, including the members of the plant troops (Werkscharen). The Training Office managed or supervised a system of special indoctrination schools on the Kreis, Gau, and national levels. (b) The Propaganda Office was responsible for the less intensive indoctrination of the general membership. Its task, as defined by the manager of the Labor Front, was "to prepare the masses for the future objectives of the leadership of the nation."¹

1. Marrenbach, op. cit., p. 78.

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(c) The Office for Labor Allocation (Arbeitseinsatz) dealt with such specific labor issues as wage policies, hours of work, social insurance, etc. It worked in cooperation, sometime in competition, with the central agencies of the government, including notably the Reich Ministry of Labor, the Commissioner General for Labor Allocation, and the Armament Ministry. This office was also responsible for the functions carried out by the DAF in relation to the millions of foreign laborers in industry, covering their care as well as their political control. It directed the staff of foreign collaborationists who functioned as "liaison men" (Verbindungsmänner) between the rank and file of foreign workers and the offices of the Labor Front. (d) The Office for Vocational Training and Management directed its main efforts, notably in wartime, to increasing the performance of the workers and the output of industry. This office, too, dealt with German and foreign labor. (e) The Office for the Health and Protection of the Nation (Amf Gesundheit und Volksschutz) was responsible for the health conditions of labor, foreign as well as German, and for the indoctrination of labor in racial questions. This office was instrumental in developing a wartime system of factory doctors who, in many cases, concentrated upon keeping over-fatigued and ill workers at their jobs.

1. See R&A No. 3113.5, cited above.

2. See "Nazi Health and Racial Policies," R&A 3114. 7.

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The Trade Offices Fachämter dealt with industries or groups of industries (for example, clothing, leather, iron and steel). As the "vertical organization" of the DAF, they directed and supervised its activities in the individual plants.¹

The organization of the DAF headquarters (Zentralbüro) was frequently changed during the ten years of its existence. During the war, there was a tendency to drop departments that were not directly related to the war effort. In addition, the majority of the departments were combined, in a somewhat unmethodical manner, into four "main war departments" (Kriegshauptarbeitsgebiete).² Their chiefs were:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|--|
| Main War Department | I: | Otto Marrenbach, the manager of the DAF. |
| " " " | II: | Dr. Theo Rupfauer |
| " " " | III: | Dr. Bodo Lafferentz |
| " " " | IV: | Heinrich Simon. |

Chiefs of main functional offices within these departments were:

Office for Labor Allocation: Franz Wende

Office for Vocational Training and Plant Management: Professor Dr. Karl Robert Arnhold; later: Dipl. Ing. Bremhorst and Dipl. Ing. H. Steinwarz

Office for Health and Protection of the Nation: Prof. Dr. Werner Bockhacker

Institute for Labor Research: Dr. Wolfgang Pohl

Chief of the Central Bureau was Robert Ley as Leader of the Labor Front, but the actual management was in the hands of Geschäftsführer Otto Marren-

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 203 ff.
2. Verwaltung und Wirtschaft des Deutschen Reiches, 1942, p. 3.

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bach. Under him some special offices functioned, including the following: the Press Bureau, headed during the war by Werner Scheunemann; the

Referat Ausland (Foreign Desk), the liaison office of the DAF with all

agencies and institutions active in work abroad; the Mob-und

Abwehrbeauftragte der DAF (Delegate for Mobilization and Counter-Espionage),

a post held in 1942 by one Nussbruch.

4. The Regional and Local Units. The organization of the headquarters was reflected to some extent on the Gau, Kreis, and Local levels, although there were naturally fewer separate bureaus on the lowest levels.

5. The Representatives in the Enterprises (Betriebsbeauftragte). Within every plant with at least five employees, the DAF was represented by a plant chief (Betriebsobmann). The personnel of smaller plants was handled directly by the Ortsobmann of the DAF, who could seek needed assistance from the Strassenzellenobmänner and Strassenblockobmänner. The Betriebsobmann had to be a Party member; he was appointed by the leader of the local group of the NSDAP following nomination by the Ortsobmann of the DAF and with the consent of the employer or the manager of the plant. He had to be confirmed by the Kreisobmann of the DAF. The relationship of the Betriebsobmann to the Betriebsführer (owner or manager of the plant) was officially compared to the

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 194.

2. Verwaltung und Wirtschaft des Deutschen Reiches, 1942, p. 7.

3. See F. 2, above.

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relationship between a master sergeant and the captain of an
1
army company.

In larger plants the plant chief of the DAF headed the
2
hierarchy of DAF representatives. Such representatives were
(a) in plants with more than 1,600 employees, the Haupt-
zellenobmänner (main cell chiefs); (b) in plants with more
than 200 employees, the Zellenobmänner (cell chiefs);
(c) in plants with more than 30 employees, the Blockob-
männer (block chiefs).

In addition, certain functional activities of the DAF
were carried out in larger plants by special delegates under
the direction of the Betriebsobmann. Such delegates were,
for instance, the Propagandawalter, the Gesundheitswalter,
the Jugendwalter, and the Arbeitsschutzwalter (propaganda
chief, health chief, youth chief, chief for labor protection).

Where several plants were parts of a single enterprise,
one of the Betriebsobmänner could be appointed as Hauptbe-
triebsobmann (Main Plant Chief). He was the liaison man
between the respective trade office (Fachamt) of the head-
quarters and the management of the enterprise, and the
coordinator of all Betriebsobmänner in the enterprise.

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 206
2. For details of this organization, ibid, p. 206.

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6. Honor and Disciplinary Courts¹ The DAF had its own judiciary organization, consisting of a Supreme Honor and Disciplinary Court at the headquarters of the DAF and of Honor and Disciplinary Courts in each Gau. In their role as honor courts, these tribunals dealt with members who had violated orders given by the Leader of the DAF, who were suspected of being "a social element"--another name for persons who were politically suspect--or who had not paid their dues. As disciplinary courts, the tribunals dealt with the officials of the DAF. During the war, the courts handled the cases of workers who had violated the rigid rules on shop discipline issued by the Commissioner General for Labor Allocation, Fritz Sauckel.²

The procedure of the courts was regulated by the Ehrenund Disziplinarordnung der DAF of 11 January 1936, revised 20 July 1939.

³ Official statements claimed for the courts "full judicial, organizational, and administrative independence". President of the Supreme Court in 1942 was Dr. von Renteln.

1. For details see Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p.209-e and Marrenbach, Fundamente des Sieges, pp. 311f.
2. See Sauckel's Decrees of 9 December 1943 and 10 March 1944 (Reichsarbeitsblatt 1943, p. I 138; 1944, p. I 58.)
3. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p.209f.

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7. "Strength through Joy" (Kraft durch Freude)¹ The NS-Community "Strength through Joy" was founded in 1933 as a subsidiary of the Labor Front. It was one of the main instruments used by both Party and Front for the indoctrination and control of the masses, a job it sought to do by organizing the leisure time of the workers. The general objective of Strength through Joy was described by Ley, the Leader of the institution, in these words:

"The Labor Front is the parade grounds on which we practice the people's community day for day, and Strength through Joy is the rule under which we practice."²

A secondary purpose of Strength through Joy was certainly to divert the attention of the workers both from the economic hardships under which they worked and from the loss of their democratic forms of representation. Something of this motivation was indicated in the following official statement:

"The NS Community "Strength through Joy" has the peculiar historical task of abolishing the economic evaluation of the work life and of making manifest the ideal qualities of labor."³

Strength through Joy was administratively and financially separate from the Labor Front. The membership,

1. For a detailed discussion see Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany, Section: Labor.
2. Robert Ley, Durchbruch der Sozialen Ehre, 1936, p. 210.
3. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 210.

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however, was identical with the membership of the Front, and most members of the staff were at the same time officials of the DAF. Dr. Bodo Lafferent, the manager of the institution, was also chief of the Main War Department IV in the headquarters of the Front.

The organization of Strength through Joy was strictly parallel to the Labor Front in the Gau, counties, and local districts; in all plants with more than twenty employees it had its own delegate, the KdF-Wart, who was subordinated to the Betriebsobmann of the DAF.

Functional offices in the headquarters and in the Gau and Kreis administrations dealt with topics like "Traveling, Hiking, Vacation," "Sport," "Adult Education," and "Beauty of Work." During the war, some of these activities were dropped while others were limited to armament workers. At the same time, Strength through Joy shifted its attention to the men in the Armed Forces. In the last phase of the war, Strength through Joy collapsed entirely.

8. Organs of "Social Autonomy" (Soziale Selbstverwaltung) Organs of what was called "social autonomy" were established in 1935 by a tripartite agreement signed by Robert Ley, the DAF chief, the Reich Minister of Labor, and the Reich Minister of Economics. This so-called

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Leipzig Agreement was solemnly confirmed by Adolf Hitler and was later extended to transportation and to agriculture. Under this agreement, the plans of a socialistic or corporative reorganization of German business which had been supported by the Nazi party in its early phase were buried behind a facade of new committees and councils.

Committees and councils established, or at least announced, in 1935 included the following: (a) Labor Chambers (Arbeitskammern) were set up in each Gau. A Reich Labor Chamber was placed over these local units. The various chambers were composed of representatives of the Labor Front and of organizations with corporate membership in the Front (e.g., the Reich Food Estate or the NS Lawyers' Association), and of other selected individuals. (b) Labor and Business Councils (Arbeits- und Wirtschaftsräte) were established on the Gau and the Reich levels; they were composed of representatives of the Chambers of Labor and representatives of business.

According to the Leipzig Agreement, labor issues were to be handled by these "organs of social autonomy." The agents of the government, notably the Labor Trustees, were to intervene only where the representatives of labor and business were unable to reach an agreement. In practice,

I. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 189-192.

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these chambers and councils developed little influence over labor policies and employment conditions for they did not get beyond the realm of general deliberation and discussion.¹

By a decree of 2 March 1943, Ley reorganized the Chambers of Labor and announced their revitalization.² There is, however, no reason to believe that they became more than sounding boards for the leaders of the Labor Front and the Nazi Party in their demands for higher performance of labor and greater output of industry.

9. Economic Enterprises of the Labor Front. The Führer Edict of 24 October 1934 transferred to the Labor Front all the assets and enterprises which had belonged to the trade unions and the associations of employers. Banks, insurance companies, printing shops, and publishing houses treated by the former labor unions became in this way the spoils of the Labor Front, which used them as the basis for assembling a vast agglomeration of economic enterprises more or less closely connected with the activities of the Front and of "Strength through Joy." Outstanding among these enterprises were: (a) The Bank of German Labor

1. See the detailed discussion in Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany, Section: Labor.
2. Deutsche Bergwerkszeitung, 2 November 1943; Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 1 November 1943.

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(Bank der Deutschen Arbeit) Under the name Bank der Arbeiter Angestellten und Beamten this institution was formerly connected with the Social Democratic labor unions. It had thirty-four branches in Greater Germany and subsidiaries in various parts of occupied Europe. (b) Two insurance combines, operating a great number of individual companies. One combine, the German Ring (Deutscher Ring), handled general insurance; the other, called People's Welfare (Volksfürsorge), specialized in life insurance. (c) Sixteen printing and publishing houses, all "taken over" from the labor unions. (d) The People's Car Works (Volkswagenwerke) in Fallersleben, a much-advertised venture for the manufacture of an inexpensive auto, but actually employed exclusively in the production of arms. .

In addition, the Labor Front appropriated the various highly developed organizations of consumers' cooperatives as far as they had not been liquidated during the first phase of the Nazi regime.¹

The economic enterprises of the Labor Front were administered by the Department for Economic Enterprises (Amt für die Wirtschaftlichen Unternehmungen) in the Central Bureau of the DAF. This department was part of the

1. Decree of 24 July 1941 (RGBl. I, 452); see also Frankfurter Zeitung, 2 March 1941.

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Zentralstelle für die Finanzwirtschaft der DAF and was therefore subject to control by the Treasurer of the Nazi Party.¹

G. Criminal Aspects of the German Labor Front

1. The Labor Front was closely connected with the NSDAP through its organization and leadership. Moreover, it was conceived and operated as the device by which the Party indoctrinated and controlled the working masses of the German population. Thus, all the criteria that determine the criminal character of the Party, its objectives, programs, and methods, also apply to the DAF.

2. The Labor Front was the machinery by which the Party destroyed the democratic unions of pre-Nazi Germany.² The Front appropriated the assets of both unions and employer associations without recognizing their obligations. The Front was instrumental in persecuting the leaders of democratic trade unions. While the main responsibility for these actions might be placed in the leadership of the NSDAP, the Front bore at least an accessory share of responsibility and was the beneficiary of these crimes.

3. Considering the type of individuals composing the leadership and the bureaucracy of the Labor Front, no doubt

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 212.
2. See R & A 3114.2 cited above.

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is possible that great numbers of common crimes were committed in the financial administration of the Labor Front, particularly in the administration of the assets, including the economic enterprises "taken over" by the Front from the former trade unions. It must also be assumed that many of these crimes were not prosecuted or adequately punished in spite of the elaborate judiciary that the Front maintained in its hierarchy of Honor and Disciplinary Courts. Evidence could certainly be established from the files of these courts and from systematic questioning of the staffs of the various institutions and enterprises.

4. The Labor Front was used as an instrument of political persecution and terror to combat workers who were opposed to the Nazi regime. The organization cooperated with both Party and police in hounding such opponents. Evidence of such actions should be found in the files of the German police and in depositions of surviving victims of such persecution.

5. By organizing German citizens gainfully employed abroad into foreign units (Ausland-Organisation), the LAF contributed to subversive activities by which the political systems of foreign countries were undermined in preparation for the domination of Europe and the world. It may be assumed that the governments of liberated countries have seized

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evidence of these activities in the files of the branches of the AO that functioned in their respective areas.

6. The Labor Front was instrumental in establishing native organizations of corresponding character in the occupied territories--Czechoslovakia, Holland, Belgium, etc. -- and cooperated with native fascist elements in destroying the existing democratic labor organizations. Again the evidence should be available from the governments of these territories.

7. The crimes committed by the Labor Front in relation to foreign labor employed within the Reich are discussed in detail in another paper.¹

1. See R & A 3113.5, cited above.

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II. The NS - Lehrerbund (National Socialist Teachers' League)¹

(Former address: Bayreuth, Haus der Deutschen Erziehung; Berlin W 35, Potsdamer Strasse 81 E)

Head of the NS - Lehrerbund was Gauleiter Fritz Wachtler. Operations were discontinued in March 1943 as one of various measures adopted by the Party in the course of total mobilization of manpower.

As the all-inclusive and compulsory organization of all German teachers, the NS - Lehrerbund superseded all voluntary associations existing before 1933 and coordinated their functions with the aims of the National Socialist Party.

To complete the system of indoctrination, regimentation of teaching personnel in the Fachschaften was supplemented by coordination of subject matter in twenty-four Sachgebiete (fields of knowledge) each of which applied to all types of schools. They included physical education, military education, racial science and science of living, history, pre-history, aviation and air raid protection, education for women, philosophy and pedagogics (including psychology), music appreciation, handicraft, boarding schools, biology, modern languages, ancient languages, geography, home economics, needlework, stenography and typewriting, writing and elementary instruction, school broadcasts, speech, still pictures and movies, mathematics and natural science, Germanism.

1. Cf. description of the Hauptamt für Erzieher, Part III, I, D, 2.

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The intensification of both training of teachers and the elaboration of subject matter was under governmental supervision, i.e., under the jurisdiction of the Reich Ministry of Education. Full coordination of policies of the Reich Ministry with that of the NSLB was guaranteed by the fact that all administrative personnel and all teachers in governmental employ served simultaneously in an honorary capacity with the NSLB.

The organization of the NS - Lehrerbund was determined functionally by the Hauptamt für Erzieher and by the Ämter subordinate to it; regionally it was patterned on the model of the regional organization of the Party. The Leiter des Hauptamtes was also the Reichswalter des NSLB, the Leiter des Gauamtes was Gauwalter des NSLB, and so forth. Each of them had the position of an Amtsleiter (official) of the Gauamt, Kreisamt, etc. The various functionaries of the Reichswaltung and Gauwaltung were selected by the Reichswalter, Gauwalter, etc.

The NS - Lehrerbund (NSLB) was an affiliated association of the Party. It was supervised by the Hauptamt für Erzieher (Main Office for Educators). According to the official Party definition, the NS - Lehrerbund in close cooperation with the Hauptschulungsamt (Main Office for Training) was made responsible for the politico-ideological orientation of all teachers in the spirit of National Socialism and for the technical training of all German educators except those who were supervised by the NSD - Dozenten-schaft (National Socialist German Society of University Teachers). ("Der NS - Lehrerbund ist verantwortlich für die weltanschauliche und politische Ausrichtung und die fachpolitische schulung der gesamten deutschen Erzieher-schaft, soweit hierfür nicht der NSD - Dozentenbund zuständig ist.")²

1. Cf. description of the Hauptamt für Erzieher.
2. Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 209; also Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 252.

Furthermore, the NS - Lehrerbund was stated to be co-responsible for the coordination of formal education and for the planning of the National Socialist school reform. Finally, the NS - Lehrerbund, in cooperation with the official Party Examining Commission for the Protection of National Socialist Literature, was declared to be responsible for the coordination and examination of all pedagogic literature with respect to its technical and ideological contents.

To this end, the NS - Lehrerbund comprised all German teachers no matter whether they taught in universities or elementary schools. However, members were organized on the various regional levels in so-called "faculties" (Fachschaften), of which there were seven, depending on the type of school to which each member belonged, i.e., universities, high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, special schools, vocational and technical schools, and social-pedagogic schools.

The Reichswaltung of the NSLB contained the following offices subordinated to the Reichswalter:

Geschäftsführer (Executive Manager)

Abteilung Schrifttum (Section for Literature)

Abteilung Schulung (Section for Training)

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Unterabteilung Reichsschule
(Sub-section Reich School)

Abteilung Organisation
(Section for Organization)

Abteilung Wirtschaft und Recht
(Section for Economics and Law)

Abteilung Presse und Propaganda
(Section for Press and Propaganda)

Abteilung Erziehung und Unterricht
(Section for Education and Instruction)

Abteilung Personalpolitik
(Section for Personnel Policies)

Abteilung Kasse (Section for Finances)

Abteilung Revision (Section for Auditing)

Similar offices existed on the Gau level, the Kreis level and, if warranted by circumstances, i. e., by the presence of at least fifty members, on the level of Kreisabschnitt (District Sector), ^{and} /if at least eight members were present, on that of Kreis-Unterabschnitt (District Sub-Sector).

In view of the compulsory nature of the NSLB, not every member can be considered as an accomplice in crimes committed by the NSLB. However, all those officials delegated by the top officers of the NSLB on the various levels of operations have shared in the responsibility for the indoctrination of German youth, specifically for the selection of teaching personnel and of teaching materials conducive to racial hatred and discrimination and to the fostering of the militaristic spirit and aggressive nationalism.

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III. The Reichsnährstand (Reich Food Estate)

The Reich Food Estate was a Party-supervised organization (betreute Organisation) operating under the direct supervision of the Reichsamt für das Landvolk. The Food Estate was organized as an autonomous corporation of public law. It was responsible for the control of the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products. All farmers, farm laborers, processors, and distributors of agriculture products were compulsory members.¹ Although established as a self-administering body in public law (Selbstverwaltungskörperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts) the Reich Food Estate was subject to the supervision of the Ministry for Food and Agriculture through mutual personnel-- both Darre and his successor, Backe, were heads of the Ministry and of the Reich Food Estate. With the outbreak of the war, the Food Estate was placed under the direct supervision of the Ministry for Food and Agriculture.

The central administrative structure of the Reich Food Estate was organized as follows:

1. Reich Peasant Leader (Reichsbauernführer) Herbert Backe
2. Assistant to the Peasant Leader--Hans Riecke
3. Press Liaison Officer--Rust
4. Administrative Office (General Policies)
Chief: Gustav Behrens
5. Office of Peasant Leader (section 9a of the Ministry for Food and Agriculture) Chief: Dr. Manns
- a. Reich Administrative Division, Chief: Walter Seidler
 - (1) Reich Division Press, Education and Propaganda--Deetzen
 - (2) Reich Division (The Farm)--Albert Brummenbaum
 - (3) Reich Division (The Market)--Wilhelm Kuper

1. Gesetz über den vorläufigen Aufbau des Reichsnährstandes und Maßnahmen zur Markt und Preisregelung für landwirtschaftliche Erzeugnisse, 13 September 1933, RGBl I, 626.

Operations were under the supervision of the Office of the Peasant Leader, which was, simultaneously, a division of the Ministry for Food and Agriculture. This division, in turn, controlled a regional and a functional organization, represented by two divisions, the Farm and the Market.

Reich Division II, The Farm, was subdivided regionally into 33 regional, 500 district, and 60,000 local Peasant Associations, the so-called Bauernschaften $\frac{1}{2}$.

The leadership principle was applied to these territorial units. Control extended from the Reich Peasant Leader (Reichsbauernführer) at the top through the Regional Peasant Leaders (Landesbauernführer) who were the heads of the regional peasant associations. (Landesbauernschaften), ^{The} Chain of authority continued through the Kreisbauernschaften (District Peasant Associations) headed by the Kreisbauernführer (District Peasant Leaders), who headed the Ortsbauernführer (Local Peasant Associations). All crimes committed by subordinates are thus the responsibility of the upper echelons.

The Peasant Leaders presiding over these regional divisions of the Reich Food Estate were empowered to fix the

1. Immediately after the outbreak of the war, the Peasant Associations became divisions "A" of the newly created Ernährungs Amt; Divisions "B" controlled rationing of food and were not under the direct control of the Reich Food Estate, although the Regional Peasant Leaders generally were heads of both Divisions "A" and "B".

schedules of agricultural production for their respective areas and, according to a decision of the Supreme Court,¹ were possessed of penal (strafrechtlich) powers which enabled them to/institute criminal proceedings against anyone violating their orders. As pointed out above, all persons engaged in production, processing, and marketing of farm products were compulsory members of the Peasant Associations.

Reich Division III, the Market, was subdivided functionally into compulsory cartels known as Central Marketing Associations (Hauptvereinigungen) which were the policy-making agencies for the regional economic associations, (Wirtschaftsverbände). The latter comprised occupational groups of producers, processors, and marketers of farm products and the compulsory cartels into which they were grouped, were immediately concerned with the control of production and marketing subject to the supervision of the territorial officials, the Peasant Leaders.

After 1942 the Reich Food Estate performed the following functions,² subject to the supervision of both the Ministry for Food and Agriculture and the Reich Office for Rural Population:

1. Control of production, processing and distribution, of farm products as far as the retailer level.

1. Reichsgericht decision 23 February 1942 cited in Wochenblatt der Landesbauernschaft, Württemberg, 4 July 1942.

2. The legislation under which the Reich Food Estate was empowered to perform these functions is given below.

2. Control of land tenure and land utilization regulations in agriculture, including the consolidation of small parcels of land into larger units, leased land application of the provisions of laws for the public regulation^{of}/agricultural holdings considered to be poorly managed, and the application of the Entailed Farm Legislation (Reichserbhofgesetz). This latter body of laws limited the inheritance of farm holdings between 7.5 and 125 hectares to one heir in each instance and prohibited the mortgaging or sale of such holdings. Only "Aryans" and persons of known Nazi sympathies were eligible to hold entailed farms.

3. Control of foreign labor in agriculture.

4. Supervision of the exploitation of the agricultural resources of conquered territories.

For administrative purposes the Entailed Farm Legislation ¹ was under the jurisdiction of the Reich Food Estate, although the Ministry for Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Justice exercised joint supervisory powers. Specifically, the following crimes were committed under the authorization of this legislation; which provided the Food Estate with an excellent weapon for Party purposes:

1. The law provided for systematic discrimination against Jews and against a broad

1. Reichserbhofgesetz, 29 September 1933, RGBL p. 685;
Erbhofrechtsverordnung, 21 December 1936, RGBL p. 1069;
Erbhofverfahrensordnung, 21 December 1936 RGBL. p. 1082.

category of those who were not considered , "bauernfähig," i.e., not competent to hold an entailed farm.^{1.}

2. Ruthless abolition of the rights of the so-called Altenteiler, owners of farms who had relinquished ownership of an entailed farm to an heir in return for board and lodging, was required if the productivity of the farm was seriously hampered by the granting of food to Altenteiler.^{2.}

3. The Entailed Farm legislation was employed as a political weapon to achieve a redistribution of farms to persons of ascertainable political reliability. In 1936, for example, there were 85,000 cases pending before local courts set up to handle litigation growing out of the Entailed Farm legislation. Not only were Jewish holders of farm property excluded from the benefits of the Entailed Farm legislation, but all persons of

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1. Erbhofverfahrensordnung, section 5 and Reichserbhofgesetz, sections 12 and 13.
 2. Decision of Reichserbhofgericht, cited in Recht des Reichsnährstandes, Heft 8, April 1933, p. 336.

anti-Nazi leanings, including members of the Oxford Movement. 1.

Under the terms of the Entailed Farm Legislation and subsequent empowering ordinances, 2. the following measures were authorized:

The abolition of democratically organized agricultural groups such as the agricultural chambers. (Landwirtschaftskammern).

The coordination of farmers, farm workers, processors, and distributors into the Reich Food Estate by decree and without popular approval.

Arbitrary taxation of all compulsory members of the Reich Food Estate, i.e., individuals and corporate bodies.

A series of decrees governing the management of agricultural holdings was used as a punitive measure against "politically unreliable" farmers. Section 15 of Reichserbhofgesetz provided for the expulsion (Abmeierung) of farmers who managed their farms badly or who violated the code of the peasant "estate". Later legislation provided for economic supervision (Wirtschaftsüberwachung) or economic management (Wirtschaftsführung) of badly managed farms. 3. The institution of legal proceedings was a function of the District or Local Peasant Leaders.

1. A list of cases involving the competence of peasants is contained in Recht des Reichsnährstandes, the official legal periodical of the Reich Food Estate.
2. Verordnungen über den vorläufigen Aufbau des Reichsnährstandes, 8 December 1935, RGBl p. 1060; 28 September 1935, RGBl p. 1219; 23 June 1936, RGBl p. 510.
3. Erbhofverfahrensordnung, section 73, 21 December 1936. This legislation was applied also to non-entailed farms. The peasant leaders brought charges in the local Entail Courts controlled jointly by the Minister of Justice and the Reich Peasant Leader.

Although there was some legal precedent for this legislation in the Prussian Law of Primogeniture of 24 April 1930, which permitted the transfer of administrative rights where an estate was mismanaged, the intent behind the Nazi legislation and the method of application meant the subordination of the rights of private property to the arbitrary will of the Nazi Party. For example, administration of badly managed farms was the function of regional trustee associations operating under the control of the Reich Food Estate. Initiation of proceedings leading to the introduction of trustee administration was the responsibility of the Local Peasant Leader who, in many cases, was also appointed as trustee by the local inheritance court, (Anerben). In this way the officials of the Reich Food Estate were able to impose sanctions upon farmers who were politically unreliable or upon those who had incurred the animosity of the Local Peasant Leaders. Periods of trusteeship varied from three to twelve years. 1.

Another charge attributed to the Reichsnährstand included the responsibility for foreign workers employed in German agriculture. 2.

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1. Reports of the court decisions on badly managed farms are carried in the weekly bulletins of the regional divisions of the Reich Food Estate, e.g., Wochenblatt der Landesbauernschaft Bayern.
 2. German Basic Handbook, ABC of German Administration and Public Services, OSS CID 118052, p. 27; Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1, 588, 2 June 1943, and Der Ausländische Arbeiter in Deutschland, p. 608.

In theory regional representatives of the various foreign groups possessed the right of negotiating with the Reich Food Estate; actually, however, the foreign workers were treated as slaves. German plans for the enslavement of foreign labor were baldly outlined in the above-mentioned by Walter Darre, one-time Minister for Food and Agriculture and head of the Reich Food Estate.

Unmistakable evidence of the enslavement of foreign labor employed in German agriculture is available in captured letters written to German soldiers by persons back home. One German wrote, for example; "I selected six Russians from the Minsk district. They are far more hardy than the French. Only one of them has died; the rest continue to work in the field and on the farm. It does not cost us anything to keep them.... Yesterday I subjected two of the Russian beasts to a light flogging when they were caught gobbling skimmed milk intended for the sows." 1.

Other evidence of the crimes committed against foreign labor in the interests of German agriculture was produced at the Kharkov trials. In testifying on his training, Senior Corporal Reinhard Retzlaff stated that several lectures were delivered to his training battalion by leading officials of the German Field police, who said that a vast number of allegedly inferior foreigners were fit only for use by large German landowners "in the capacity of slaves." 2.

1. Michael Sayers and Albert Kahn, The Plot against the Peace, New York, 1945, p. 111. 2. Ibid, p. 121.

The Reich Food Estate must also share some of the responsibility for the systematic plundering of conquered territories. The agricultural resources of German occupied territories were funneled into the Reich for the benefit of the German civilian population and the Wehrmacht. German rations were increased at the expense of the people of the conquered territories. For example, the average weekly ration of meat in the General Government in 1944 was 100 grams ($3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) as compared with an allowance of 250 grams (9 oz.) for normal consumers in Germany proper.¹

Food was also used as a weapon to enforce conformity to German occupation rule. In the incorporated eastern territories, for example, the "loyal Poles" were given the same rations as the Germans while other non-Germans and Jews got about one-half the amounts allotted to the former groups.² The withholding of food, for which the Reich Food Estate must share the responsibility, was a deliberate policy for the slow starvation of thousands of conquered people. In October 1942, Reich Minister Goering declared that "the German people come before all other peoples in matters of food." In even bolder terms Koch, Reich Commissioner for the Ukraine, declared that "if hundreds of thousands here starve to death, I demand the delivery of all established quantities without rest."

1. American Embassy, London, Economic Warfare Division, 1 May 1944 "Average Weekly Food Rations in Enemy and Enemy Occupied Countries," Ref. L. 250/84/1/.

2. Ibid.

He further stated that the general supply situation made it necessary that all measures be taken without any regard to the civil population. ^{1.}

To exploit the agricultural resources of the occupied eastern territories Wirtschaftsstab Ost, Chefgruppe Landwirtschaft, Berlin (Economic Staff East, Chief Group Agriculture, Berlin) was organized. Although it was under the direction of OKW, administratively over-all direction of the agricultural policies was a function of the administrative office of the Reich Peasant Leader in Berlin. Moreover, appointment to the higher positions in the Economic Staff was the responsibility of the same agency. ^{2.}

A similar connection linked the Reich Food Estate with the Division of Food and Supply of the Ministry for the Occupied Territories, which administered areas to the west of the Dnieper. In addition, the Reich Food Estate was connected with Die Zentrale-Handelsgesellschaft Ost für Landwirtschaftlichen Absatz und Bedarf, Central Commercial Company East for Agricultural Marketing and Supply.

This company organized as the major commercial organization to control all agricultural transactions between the eastern occupied territories and the old Reich. There was a twofold connection between this company and the Reich Food Estate. In the first place, high officials of the Food Estate were members of the Company's board of directors. Furthermore, the Reichsstelle (Reich offices),

1. PW interrogation No. L/89. CSDIC ME 30 August 1943

2. PW Interrogation No. N01/89. CSDIC ME 30 August 1943.

the administrative branches of the central marketing associations (Hauptvereinigungen) in the Reich Food Estate, were identified with the operations of the company. ¹. The exact connection between the company and the Reich offices is not clear. But in view of functions of the Reich offices as the regulators of imports and exports of farm products to and from the old Reich, ². it would appear that the Reich offices were responsible for the formulation of the policies of the company.

The exploitative character of these policies is made abundantly clear in statements in the German press. For example, one journal said: "Demands...must be made on the Ukraine for the supply of the fighting forces and...in order to satisfy the additional requirements of the Reich as well as of Europe." ³.

The Reich Food Estate was directly responsible for the exploitation of the agricultural resources and of the farm populations of incorporated eastern territories. ⁴. Within this area and in eastern France the Reich Company for the management of Agricultural Holdings (Reichsgesellschaft für Landbewirtschaftung) operated in personal union with

1. Die Landwarte, 9 January 1943, p.1.
2. Verordnung über den Warenverkehr, 4 September 1934, RGBl., p. 816. and Verordnung über die Errichtung von Überwachungsstelle, vom 4.9.34., Reichsanzeiger No. 209.
3. Die Deutsche Volkswirt, 3 September 1943.
4. Verordnung über die Einführung der Reichsnährstands-gesetzgebung in den eingegliederten Ostgebieten, RGBl. I. p. 47, 10 January 1940.

the Reich Food Estate.^{1.} In the occupied eastern territories expropriated Polish agricultural holdings were managed by the company.^{2.} The actual direction of the various farms was in the hands of personnel of the Reich Food Estate. In eastern France the company controlled two million hectares of land, of which 170,000 hectares were operated with French and Polish slave labor.^{3.}

1. Oberschlesische Zeitung, 24 July 1943.
2. Frankfurter Zeitung, 15 May 1943; cf. Verordnung über die öffentliche Bewirtschaftung land und forstwirtschaftlicher Grundstücke in den eingegliederten Ostgebieten, RGBL. I, p. 355, 12 February 1940.
3. Frankfurter Zeitung, 15 May 1943.

Appendix I

The Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda (Reich Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda) The Minister was Josef Goebbels.

Functions and Jurisdiction: The Nazi leaders had always¹ recognized the power of propaganda as a political weapon. When the NSDAP seized power in Germany it set out to fashion all media of expression into propaganda instruments which would help the Party to fasten its grip on the intellectual life of the German nation and to force all thought into a mould conforming to Nazi political and ideological principles.

To this end, three immediate objectives had to be achieved. First, the total intellectual, political, and artistic output of the nation had to be brought under strict control. Second, both producers and distributors in any given field had to be carefully selected and supervised. Third, a permanent check had to be kept on public reactions so as to permit adaptations at a moment's notice. The existing Party machinery would not have sufficed to complete all these aims. Therefore, in order to facilitate the Party's task of acquiring controls over the propaganda media, and their personnel, and to lend these operations a more legal air, Goebbels, Propaganda Leader of the Party, founded the Propaganda Ministry, which as a duly constituted organ of the government could provide official sanction and extend the scope of his activities.

1. See above, Part II of this paper.

According to Goebbels, Propaganda Ministry (Promi) was founded "to carry out the coordination (Gleichschaltung) between government and people" in order that the government should never again lose contact with them (von Volke weichen) but should always be "in immediate contact with the people, listen to the most secret vibrations of the soul of the people and adjust every public measure to it!"^{1/} The Ministry was created, therefore, to implement Goebbels' concept of propaganda and to serve as "the connecting link between government and people ... the never resting instigator in the public formation of opinion (Öffentliche Meinungsbildung)"^{2/}

The functions of the Promi were defined in the establishing decree as the "enlightenment of, and propaganda among, the people on the subject of the policy of the Reich Government and on the national reconstruction of the homeland."^{3/} To this end the following functions were brought under the Ministry's jurisdiction: from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there was transferred control over propaganda abroad;^{4/} from the Ministry of Interior, all propaganda within the Reich, including control of the propaganda media (press, music, theater, film, art, and literature) and all institutions connected with these fields; from the Ministry of Posts, control over broadcasting; and from the Ministry of Economics, all propaganda matters concerning travel.^{5/}

^{1/} Goebbels, Soziale Revolution as quoted in Social Research, International Quarterly of Political and Social Science, May 1943, p. 206. ^{2/} Goebbels, Propaganda als Mittlerin, as quoted in Ibid. ^{3/} RGB1, I, 104, 13 March 1933. ^{4/} The Foreign Office, however, was reluctant to relinquish its hold over propaganda abroad, from which fact developed the feud between the Ministries. ^{5/} RGB1, I, 449, 30 Juli 1933.

With control established over all propaganda media in Germany, the Ministry became the most important and most efficient instrument for indoctrinating the German people with National Socialist racial and political ideology.

Despite the seeming independence of the Proni and despite the fact that it, and not the Party, was charged with policy making, issuance of general directives, and supervision of propaganda personnel, the Ministry remained, in effect, an instrument of the Party, helping it not only to monopolize propaganda, in terms of content, but also to establish economic supremacy in certain fields. The Party's control over the Proni manifested itself most prominently in two aspects: top positions in the Ministry were held by leading personalities in the Party propaganda machine, ^{1/} while on the regional and local levels there was complete coordination between Party and Government.

1/ The following list may serve as an example:

| | <u>Party</u> | <u>Government</u> |
|----------------|--|---|
| Josef Goebbels | Reich Propaganda Leader | Minister of Propaganda President of the Reich Chamber of Culture |
| Otto Dietrich | Reich Press Chief | Undersecretary of State in the Proni for the Press Vice President of the Reich Press Chamber |
| Max Amann | Reich Leader of the Press | President of the Reich Press Chamber |
| Ingenar Berndt | Chief of the Division Active Propaganda | Chief of the Department for Propaganda Coordination in the Proni |
| Wilhelm Weiss | Editor of the <u>Völkischer Beobachter</u> | President of the Reich Association of Journalists |

Organization of the Promi:
1/

Reich Minister: Josef (Paul) Goebbels

Staatssekretäre (Under Secretaries of State): Werner Naumann (formerly Leopold Gutterer), Otto Dietrich, and Herman Esser.

There were 17 functional departments:

Departments under Werner Naumann:

- a. Abteilung Haushalt (Budget and Finance Department)
- b. Personalabteilung (Personnel Department)
- c. Rechtsabteilung (Legal Department)
- d. Abteilung Propaganda (Propaganda Department) headed by Ingemar Berndt. This department coordinated propaganda policies and issued over-all directives to the various functional departments (press, radio, etc.) which then implemented the directives.
- e. Abteilung Ausland (Foreign Department) This department was headed by Ministerialdirektor Dräger, earlier by Hunke. This department was the Ministry's listening post for political and economic developments abroad for the purpose of exploiting the information in German propaganda. Its primary task, however, was to control propaganda abroad. To this end it cooperated closely with the Auslandsorganisation der NSDAP (Foreign Organization of the Party), whose cultural undertakings abroad were financed by this department of the Promi.

1/ Detailed information may be found in CSDIC (UK) PW paper 80, an interview with Richard Arhold, former employe in the Promi.

- f. Abteilung Rundfunk (Radio Department) This department was headed by Hans Fritzsche, and his deputy Scharping who both appeared also as star commentators on the German radio. It supervised the political content of German broadcasting. It issued directives as to the arrangement of programs and the treatment of material. It also cooperated with the Party in the technical organization of German radio.
- g. Abteilung Film (Film Department). This department, headed by Hippler, was in charge of directing and guiding the German film industry, censoring of films, and developing the German weekly newsreel (Wochenschau)
- h. Abteilung Schrifttum (Literature Department). It was headed by Karl Haegert. It was responsible for the control and organization of all German literary activities, the censorship of new books, the publication of German books abroad, and for the translation and censorship of foreign books.
- i. Abteilung Theater (Theater Department) Headed by Rainer Schlösser.
- j. Abteilung Bildende Kunst (Art Department) Headed by Biebrach.
- k. Abteilung Musik (Music Department) Headed by Dr. Drowes.
- l. Abteilung Besondere Kulturaufgaben (Special Cultural Tasks) Headed by Hans Hinkel.

- n. Abteilung Reichsverteidigung (Department for the Defense of the Reich). It was headed by Major of the Police (Major der Schutzpolizei) Titel. The department was responsible for liaison with the police, security within the Ministry and for the development of the Reich air raid warning system and civil defense.

Departments under Otto Dietrich:

- a. Abteilung Deutsche Presse (German or Home Press Department) This department was headed by Erich Fischer. It was responsible for the political control over the entire German press; specifically it controlled the editorial policy of the press and its personnel (through the agency of the Reich Press and Chamber), /supervised the dissemination of news through the Official German news agency (DNB). The Home Press Division outlined/in its daily directives (Tendenzberichte). These dealt with the daily contents of the paper, the methods of treatment of news material, the writing of headlines, the preference or omission of certain items, and the toning down or dropping of current campaigns. The directives were either issued to the representatives of the press in person or sent through the facilities of the DNB to the local papers.^{1/} Any journalist who failed to follow the directive was likely to lose his job.

1/ For details see British Basic Handbook; Germany Part II, Chapter 12 and PW paper 80, CSDIC (UK), interview with Richard Arnhold, former employe of the Proni.

b. Abteilung Auslandspresse (Foreign Press Department).

This department was headed by Brauweiler. It supervised both German journalists abroad and foreign journalists in Germany. It censored their articles, subsidized them, etc. Daily press conferences were also held.

c. Abteilung Zeitschriftenpresse (Periodical Literature Department). It controlled German periodical literature in the same manner as the Abteilung Deutsche Presse controlled the daily press.

One department was under Hermann Esser:

a. Abteilung Fremdenverkehr (Tourist Trade Department).

It was in charge of all propaganda matters concerning travel and foreign tourist traffic in Germany.

The Propaganda Ministry, by virtue of the total control it exercised over German cultural life and by virtue of the functions assigned to it, was an accessory in the commission of crimes by the NSDAP and the German Government. It was responsible for the indoctrination of the German people with National Socialist ideology, for their intellectual preparation for German aggressive warfare, and in many instances incitement against racial or political groups and others considered as inimical to the Reich. Radio and press campaigns inciting the population against the Jews were conducted under the guidance of the Propaganda Ministry just prior to the Jewish pogroms in the Reich. Likewise a thorough propaganda campaign inciting the population against enemy fliers preceded the lynchings of American airmen in Germany.¹

The Ministry was responsible for the issuance of laws and decrees curtailing and abolishing the freedom of the press and of expression. It was responsible for legalizing the Party's monopoly on the field of Propaganda, and for implementing and executing laws which established the principle of racial discrimination for the intellectual and artistic professions. For example, the Editorial Law basically altered the relation of journalist to publisher. It made the journalist primarily responsible to the government for the political content of his writing. It provided for the exclusion from the journalistic profession of Jews and other persons considered politically undesirable.²

1. See article by Goebbels in Völkischer Beobachter, 28 May 1944.

2. RGBL, I, 713, 4 October 1933.

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Furthermore, the Ministry was involved in the execution of psychological warfare and in the spread of Nazi doctrines in German-occupied countries and among ethnic Germans abroad. It financed German "cultural" undertakings abroad; organized and maintained information libraries, provided for the translation of Nazi books into foreign languages, arranged for German propagandists to tour European countries. Furthermore, the Ministry absorbed, invaded or founded other international organizations, such as the International Journalist's Association, and the International Film Chamber as instruments through which it attempted to dominate the cultural life of other countries. 1/

Semi-autonomous Professional Organizations

The Reichskulturkammer (Reich Chamber of Culture).

Functions: The Reichskulturkammer was founded in November 1933 in order to "promote German culture as responsible to the people and the Reich, to regulate the social and economic relations of the different groups in the cultural professions and to coordinate their aims." 2/ It was to serve as a roof organization for several professional chambers, and, through these, to represent the "government's protecting hand over German culture so that it may develop in new channels, free from destructive dilletantism and economic greed." 3/

1/ See Civil Affairs handbooks: Germany, Section 12: Communications and Control of Public Opinion.

2/ RGEI I, 779, 22 September 1933

3/ Speech of Goebbels at the inauguration of the Reichskulturkammer on 15 November 1933. Publication in Frankfurt a.M. 1933, pp. 20-21.

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Officially the Reichskulturkammer was a so-called "Nachgeordnete Dienststelle" (Subordinate office) of the Propaganda Ministry. Together with its subordinated Chambers it was charged with keeping a check on all personnel active in any field under the jurisdiction of the Propaganda Ministry. All persons employed in the cultural professions had to register with one of the subordinate Chambers. The Chambers were, however, responsible not only for the registration of members, for they were to implement the legislation establishing racial and political discrimination in the admission of individuals to cultural professions. They were likewise responsible for checking on the activities and political reliability of their members. The Chambers, moreover, were given power to prosecute members offending against Nazi standards or persons pursuing their occupation without being duly registered. Their punitive powers included exclusion from membership, which was tantamount to the loss of livelihood. Furthermore, the Chambers were given power to issue directives, which had the validity of law, and to regulate the economic and social relations of the cultural fields under their control.

Organization: 2/

President: Josef Goebbels
Vice President: Walter Funk, Max Amann,
Leopold Gutterer.

There were **six** functional Chambers:
Reichspressekammer (Reich Press Chamber) President Max Amann.
(One of the most vicious corporate members was the

1/ First Executive Decree to the Law concerning the Reich Chamber of Culture - 1 November 1933, RGBl. I, also Third Executive order of 19 April 1937, RGBl. I. 468.

2/ For details see: Handbuch der Reichskulturkammer, Deutscher Verlag, Berlin 1937.

Reichsverband der Deutschen Press [German 'Jornalists' Association] headed by Wilhelm Weiss.)

Reichskammer der Bildenden Kunste (Reich Chamber of Fine Arts) President Wilhelm Kreis.

Reichsmusikkammer (Reich Music Chamber) President Peter Raabe.

Reichstheaterkammer (Reich Theater Chamber) President Rainer Schlösser.

Reichsfilmkammer (Reich Film Chambers) President Karl Frölich, 1st or Franz Hippler.

Reichsschrifttumskammer (Reich Chamber of Literature) President Hanns Johst.

The Chamber of Culture and various functional Chambers implemented the Party's and Ministry's policy of racial and political discrimination with regard to personnel in the field of culture. The Chambers also issued directives leading to the economic exploitation of non-party cultural enterprises (See above, Reichsleiter für die Presse), and in some instances to the expropriation of property owned by anti-Nazis and Jews.

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Appendix IIThe Ministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft.

The Ministry for Food and Agriculture (Ministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft) was a government agency whose functions were naturally connected with the operation of the Party's Reichsamt für das Landvolk. Consequently, the work of the latter organization cannot be fully understood without reference to the Ministry. It was responsible for the over-all planning of agricultural production and distribution within Germany proper and for the drafting of plans for the integration of the agricultural resources of conquered territories into the economy of a Greater Germany.

The specific functions of the Ministry are indicated by the tasks assigned to its more important divisions: 1.

1. General Affairs: Count von der Schulenburg
2. Production and Consumption, Marketing Regulation: Dr. Moritz
3. Labor Supply, etc: Dr. Lorenz
4. Tariff and Customs Policy, Foreign Agricultural Relations: Dr. Walter
5. Hereditary Farm Law, Farmers, and the Agricultural Population, Transfers of Land: Baron Dr. von Manteuffel
6. Farm Settlement in Newly-Acquired Territories, Rehabilitation of Farmers in the Old Reich: Hilde Reinthaler
9. Readjustment of Agricultural Holdings, etc.: Reinthaler
- 9a. Office of the Peasant Leader: Dr. Hanns

1. Reichsaddressbuch, 1941, pp 79-80;

Taschenbuch für Verwaltungsbeamte, 1943.

Only the relevant divisions are given above.

The Ministry and Control of Domestic Agriculture.

A law of 5 July 1933 empowered the Minister for Food and Agriculture to reorganize German agriculture.¹ Under the authority conveyed in this law and in another of 13 September 1933,² the Minister established the Reichsnährstand (Reich Food Estate). Although the latter body was established as a self-administering body in public law (Selbstverwaltungskörperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts),³ the Ministry for Food and Agriculture exercised general supervision over the Reich Food Estate,⁴ by means of both legislative directives and mutual personnel.

The head of both Ministry and Food Estate was successively Walter Darre (D 1942) and Herbert Backe. With the outbreak of the war, the Reich Food Estate was placed directly under the Ministry for Food and Agriculture,⁵ and the plans of the Cartel arrangements, called Marketing Associations, which controlled the procurement of food in Germany were subject to the approval of the Ministry.⁶

As the agency enjoying over-all supervision of agricultural planning, the Ministry for Food and Agriculture must share responsibility for the domestic crimes committed under the immediate supervision of the Reich Food Estate.⁷

1. Gesetz über die Zuständigkeit des Reiches für die Regelung des ständischen Aufbaues der Landwirtschaft, RGBl. p. 495.

2. Gesetz über den vorläufigen Aufbau des Reichsnährstandes und Massnahmen zur Markt und Preisregelung für landwirtschaftliche Erzeugnisse. RGBl. p. 626.

3. Verordnung, 8 December 1933 RG p. 1060.

4. See discussion of the Reich Food Estate.

5. Verordnung des Reichsministers für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft über die öffentliche Bewirtschaftung von landwirtschaftlichen Erzeugnisse August 27, 1939 RGBl I. 1521.

6. Ibid. 7. See discussion of the Reich Food Estate. SECRET

The Ministry and Occupied Territories

The Ministry for Food and Agriculture formulated plans for the regimentation of agriculture in preparation for the waging of aggressive war. According to Darre these plans had been worked out as early as 1932 in the "Brown House" in Munich. 1. Furthermore, the system of agricultural planning, he stated, was organized in such a way that its transformation into an instrument of war could be achieved without any dislocations of the economy. 2. This point had been reached as early as 1935. 3. From an early date, moreover, the formulations of German agricultural policy were actively concerned with plans to establish German leadership in the economy of Central Europe. 4. In the Official Party Announcement on the Position of the NSDAP on Agriculture and the Rural Population, the task of German foreign policy was said to be the creation of "food and settlement space for the growing German people." 5

In collaboration with the Delegate for the Four Year Plan, the Minister for the Occupied Territories, and the Wehrmacht, the Ministry for Food and Agriculture organized the planning and regimentation of the agricultural resources of Europe into an integrated system, under which the food requirements of the conquered peoples were subordinated to the needs of the Wehrmacht and the German people.

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1. Walter Darre, Um Blut und Boden, p. 512
 2. Recht des Reichsnährstandes, Heft 24, 1940, p. 909
 3. W. Darre, op. cit., p. 514
 4. Ibid p. 529
 5. Recht des Reichsnährstandes, Heft 12, 1938, p. 489

In Greater Germany (the old Reich, plus Alsace-Lorraine, Austria, Sudetenland, the annexed parts of Poland /Warthegau/, Danzig, and Memelland), agriculture was included within the Reich Food Estate,^{1.} subject to the over-all direction of the Ministry. All policies applying in the old Reich were introduced and all farm products were subject to sequestration.^{2.} In the Greater Reich food was rationed, for the most part, on the same standard as applied in the old Reich. Poles and Jews, however, were discriminated against and were supplied with special ration cards for lower quotas of food.^{3.}

In violation of Article 47 of the Hague Convention of 1907,^{4.} which expressly forbids the confiscation of private property, a decree of December 1940 provided for the public management of all agricultural and forest holdings in the incorporated Eastern Territories not owned by persons of German stock.^{5.} The execution of this measure was entrusted to the Ministry for Food and Agriculture operating through the Ostdeutsche Landbewirtschaftungsgesellschaft (East German Land Management Company), which took over the rights and the functions of the former owners.^{6.}

1. Cf. Verordnung über die Einführung des Reichsnährstandgesetzes in den Sudetendeutschen Gebieten. 19 October 1938, RGBI, II. Verordnung über die Einführung des Reichsnährstandgesetzes in den eingegliederten Ostgebieten. 10 January 1940, RGBI. I. 47; Verordnung zur Inkraftsetzung des Reichsnährstandgesetzes im Lande Österreich. 14 May 1938, RGBI. I. 523. 2. See discussion of Reich Food Estate.

3. Erllass des Reichs Ernährungs-Ministeriums betreffend durchführung des Karten-systems vom 18 Juni 1941, Ernährungswirtschaft, II c, 1 -2500

4. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land", Pamphlet No. 5. p. 24.

5. Verordnung über die Öffentliche Bewirtschaftung land und forstwirtschaftlicher Grundstücke in den eingegliederten Ostgebieten.

6. Ostlandverordnung, RGBI. I p. 355, 2 December 1940.

The confiscation of private landed property was further expedited by a decree of the Minister for Food and Agriculture ^{1.} which authorized Reichs- or Volksdeutsche to exchange their property damaged by war for the undamaged holdings of Poles in the occupied eastern territories. In addition a joint order ^{2.} of the Minister for Food and Agriculture and Himmler allowed persons of German stock to acquire ownership of holdings over which they had enjoyed power of disposal (Verfügungsmacht) as guardians or lessees of property. The execution of this measure was a responsibility of the SS and the police. ^{3.} Another joint order authorized the confiscation of land which had been transferred by Germans to Poles and Jews and was in the possession of members of either of the latter groups on 1 October 1939. ^{4.}

A still broader basis for confiscation of land was afforded by a decree for the Confiscation of Property of Groups Hostile to the People and the State in the Occupied Eastern Territories. ^{5.}

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1. Erllass des Reichsernährungsminister, 11 October 1940, VIII, 6026.
 2. Allgemeine Ordnung, 28 December 1940, cited in Recht des Reichnährstandes, Heft 3, p. 69, February 1941.
 3. Ibid.
 4. Reichskommissar für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums and Minister für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, Erlass 8 January 1941, Reichsministerialblatt, Landwirtschaft, p. 42.
 5. Verordnung über die Einziehung Volks oder Reichsfeindlichen Vermögens in den eingegliederten Ostgebieten, 14 August 1942, RGBl. I, 514.

The Ministry for Food and Agriculture, furthermore, was involved in the direction of settling Germans in conquered territories. Working in cooperation with the Commissariat for the Defense of Germanhood, (Kommissariat für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums)¹, the Ministry was responsible for the ousting from their lands of Polish, French, and Czech farmers to make way for the settlement of persons of German origin. In 1940, for example, it was announced that 40,000 farmers from southwestern Germany were to be settled in Wartheland and were to occupy land formerly held by Poles.²

In some instances the regulations governing settlement were the joint responsibility of the Army High Command (OKW) and the Ministry for Food and Agriculture,³ although the actual establishment of settlement companies was left to the Ministry alone.⁴ In the Incorporated Eastern Territories the following companies were set up: Bauernsiedlung Posen GmbH, Berlin -- Walter Kruger, director.

Bauernsiedlung Hohensalza GmbH, Berlin--Dr. Wilhelm Bogens, director.

1. The Commissariat was organized by Himmler in 1939 after the outbreak of the war to "Germanize the East, not in the old sense of bringing the German language and German laws to the people dwelling in that area, but to insure that in the East only people of genuinely German, Teutonic blood shall live". See also Durchführung des Führererlasses zur Festigung des deutschen Volkstums, 7 October 1939, cited in Neues Bauerntum, vol. 32, 1940, p. 73.

2. Studies of Migration and Settlement (Transfer of Peoples in Europe 1939-42), p. 126.

3. Rund Erlass des Reichsministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 25 January 1940, VIII, 24091/40, cited in Neues Bauerntum vol. 32, 1940, p. 73.

4. Neues Bauerntum, loc. cit.

Bauernsiedlung Kalisch GmbH, Berlin--Fritz Donner, director.
Danzig-Westpreussische Landsiedlung GmbH, Danzig --
Bauernsiedlung Westmark GmbH, Saarbruck --

For the settlement operations in Lorraine the following decrees should be consulted:

Anordnung des Chefs der Zivilverwaltung über die Besiedlung
des lothringischen Grönzlandes vom 10 Juli 1942. Verord-
nungsblatt für Lothringen, No. 29, p. 33.

Verordnung über die Neuordnung des Siedlungsraumes in
Lothringen. Verordnungsblatt für Lothringen December 7,
1940, p. 389.

Verordnung über das in Lothringen anzuwendende Recht zur
Neubildung deutschen Bauerntums. Verordnungsblatt,
11 February 1941, p. 130.