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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of KONSTANTIN VON NEURATH
By : Lt.Col.Hinkel, 3 October 1945, p.m.

PERSONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

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 - b. Policy of circumventing Treaty of Versailles (p.4)
 - c. As Reich Protector for Bohemia and Moravia (p.15, 17, 18, 8)
 - (1) Relationship with Himmler and police activities (p. 16, 17, 19)
 - (2) Relationship with Frank and Heydrich (p.17,18)
 - (3) Deportation of forced labor (p. 20)
 - d. Membership in NSDAP (p.8, 19)
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2. HITLER
 - a. Early foreign policy of aggression (p.1, 13)
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 - d. Use of Nazi propaganda machinery outside Germany (p.5, 10, 11)
 - (1) "Bureau Ribbentrop" (p. 10,11)
3. RIBBENTROP
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 - a. Absolute central control over policy and Gestapo activities in Czecho-Slovakia (p.16,17,19,20)
5. HANS FRANK
 - a. Relationship with von Neurath (p. 17,18)
6. GOERING
 - a. Opposition to Hitler's policy of aggression (p.9)

HITLER'S EARLY FOREIGN POLICY

Says Hitler showed signs of increasing aggressiveness after Mussolini's visit, in October 1937. He opposed Hitler's plans, telling him he should look for another foreign minister (1). After the General's meeting on November 10, 1937, von Fritsch and Beck expressed their opposition to Hitler's plans; Von Blomberg always followed Hitler (2)

The Rhineland occupation was a real bluff, with nothing to back it up. Rearmament began afterwards, perhaps in 1936 (4).

Admits that it was foreign policy to avoid the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles up until 1937 (4). Categorically opposed the Organization for Germans living abroad (Ausland-deutsche), it had a big office in Berlin under Buhler (5).

Says that all heads of the Army General Staff were opposed to war (8). Goering too was absolutely against war (9).

Considers Rosenberg's ideas very confused (6). Rosenberg the most well known representative of Nazism", intended to become foreign minister in 1933 (6). Says von Ribbentrop was totally unqualified for position of foreign minister (7)

Germany sent people out of the country as propagandists, although Hitler said he would not make propaganda outside the country. (10)

The "Bureau Ribbentrop" (existing before Ribbentrop became foreign minister) had about 200 agents abroad, one of whom was Ambassador Abetz, Paris (10), they were later made ambassadors by titles. This bureau was private and paid by Hitler (11).

Reviews the developments previous to the alliance of Germany and Italy (11), which was concluded by Ribbentrop in 1938, after Neurath's resignation. Von Neurath opposed it strongly (12). Dollfuss was shot by the Nazis "without any notice" (12).

States that after his resignation in 1938, there was no more resistance to Hitler's aggressive policy (13). Ribbentrop always said "yes" to Hitler (13). It was von Brauchitsch, not Keitel, who no longer opposed war after von Fritsch had left (14). Keitel had no influence (14). Thinks Horthy was driven by the party (14).

MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAZI PARTY

On January 13, 1937, Hitler made Neurath and the ministers of finance, justice, railways and economics - who had declined party membership - compulsory members of the party. The same happened with the SS. Was made (honorary) SS Gruppenfuehrer

in 1937 without warning (8). Hitler never let anyone retire, whether officials or generals (8).

AS REICH PROTECTOR OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA

Was appointed Reich Protector 18 March, 1939; he left this office 24 December, 1941 (15). Between 1941 and 24 August, 1943 (date of official resignation) he stayed at his home refusing to return (15). Repeats he had no control over the police and the Gestapo; claims he had no knowledge of their acts until afterwards. Their orders came from Himmler, Berlin (16).

Says Frank was appointed Secretary of State, was directly under Himmler in police matters (16). Thinks the police had authority by decree (16). Received complaints of police activities and made many reports complaining to Hitler and Himmler (17), but their promises were not kept. Claims he transferred powers to his deputy at the time when he returned to his home. Reiterates that he wrote several times to Hitler, asking him to free him when he left Prague but never received an answer (17). Lammers told him that Hitler did not wish changes of his official representatives in Bohemia -- that that was the only reason (17) Frank was his official (17).

Claims he was never consulted on decrees published by Heydrich or by Frank, after he left. Hitler told Neurath that Heydrich had been sent to Prague for sharper measures (18).

Says he was Reich Protector only from April 1939 to September 1941 (18) (compare page 15 where he gives these dates as March 1939 to December 24, 1941). States that he was made Obergruppenführer too (19). Claims he wore this uniform only twice, once when Mussolini came and secondly, at the funeral of Mustapha Kemal (19).

Denies having seen a Hitler decree of October 1939, authorizing him, Himmler, and the Police Chief to take, if necessary, measures exceeding the usually valid police measures; evades a direct answer, says he never had occasion to use it, anyway (19). Admits that police activities after October 1939, were more pronounced. Says he was at Studentheil on October 28, 1939 (20).

States that the "Oberlandsräte" had the function of control over the Czechoslovak officials. There was no difficulty to obtain foreign workers for Germany, but they were not very numerous (20).