

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/32
29 May 45

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
: S E C R E T :
: Auth: CG, 7th Army :
: Init: P. K. :
: Date: 29 May 1945 :
: :

HEINRICH LAMMERS, CHIEF OF REICH CHANCELLORY

1. SOURCE

Heinrich LAMMERS represents the typical German official and jurist. He tries to emphasize the point that since the Party took over control of all matters of German policy, foreign and interior alike, he was not more than a figurehead in the Reich Chancellory, but he apparently realizes that these claims are subject to strong arguments. He joined the Party in 32 and, as expert in state and administrative law procedures, was indispensable in the legal transfer of the state functions to Party authorities, especially in the first period, when HINDENBURG was still alive. Due to his position he is a highly important witness for unlawful actions of the Nazi regime.

Source, like almost every REICH Minister and high-ranking military leader, received a considerable monetary gift for his services, which apparently weighs heavily upon his conscience.

Rating: C-3 Date of Information: See Text Interrogator: W.K.

2. ACTIVITIES AS CHIEF OF REICH CHANCELLORY

According to his position as Chief of the Chancellory, source was to instruct the Reich Chancellor concerning the current political situation. This task was performed by LAMMERS in the first years of the regime, before HINDENBURG's death. After the governing of Germany was taken over by the Party alone, source claims matters of interior policy were no longer the concern of the Chief of the Chancellory, and after NEURATH was fired as Foreign Minister and RIBBENTROP took over his functions, this field was also eliminated as one of LAMMER's affairs.

The nominal functions of the Chief of the Chancellory were as follows:

a) State Legislation Matters

Until 37, laws were either decreed by the Reich cabinet or submitted in writing. They were then submitted to all ministers concerned and finally signed by HITLER. Since 37, all laws were counter-signed by LAMMERS, who was responsible for the legal aspects of the drafts and was therefore called "Notary of the Reich".

LAMMERS claims the NUREMBERG Laws "were prepared and made legal by the National Socialist REICHSTAG. They had probably been prepared by Reich Minister of the Interior Dr FRICK. I received notice of them only after they had been made legal".

b) Matters Concerning FUEHRER Decrees

Such decrees were issued directly by the FUEHRER, for the most part upon suggestion by one of the Ministers. LAMMERS checked the drafts concerning their form, and afterwards they were published.

c) Administration of Chancellory Funds

As Chief of Chacellory, source administered special funds at the disposal of the Head of State. These funds consisted of the following:

- i) General Purpose Funds (FONDS FUER ALLGEMEINE ZWECKE), amounting to 30-40 million marks annually. HITLER used these funds for making monetary gifts to his high-ranking collaborators, both civil and military. LAMMERS defends this procedure by recalling that Frederick the Great granted his collaborators so called "dotations", and that Napoleon likewise gave large monetary rewards to his marshals.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/32
29 May 45

The order for the payment of a larger sum was given either by HITLER, by HITLER's Chief Adjutant, or by BORMANN. LAMMERS recalls that Field Marshal RUNDSTEDT received RM 250,000 on 11 Dec 41; GENOBST (Col Gen) Heinz GUDERIAN received nearly RM 1,000,000 to purchase an estate in WARTHEGAU (Pomerania); Field Marshal LEEB received about RM 500,000 for the acquisition of a forest estate in Bavaria; Field Marshal BRAUCHITSCH as far as source remembers, also received a larger donation; as to Field Marshals LISZT and WEICHS, source assumes that they were also favored with monetary gifts, but he does not recall the exact figures; but Field Marshal ROMMEL received nothing and neither did Field Marshal WITZLEBEN. The GAF Field Marshals received similar "allotments" directly from GOERING. LAMMERS recalls that Field Marshal MILCH received a large amount of money to purchase an estate somewhere near BRESLAU.

"Representation Expenses" (AUFWANDSENTSCHAEDIGUNGEN) for the Minister were also paid from the General Purpose Fund. GOERING, for example, received as REICHSMARSCHALL at first RM 48,000, then RM 96,000, and finally RM 240,000 a year, in addition to his salaries through the various other official posts he held (cf Report Ref No SAIC/16, 23 May 45). LAMMERS admits that the simultaneous receipt of several salaries was unlawful.

ii) Aid Fund (HILFSFOND), amounting to 90-100 million marks a year. This fund was further subdivided into a Housing Fund (L) (BAUFOND), from which HITLER financed special building projects, e.g. in LINZ, where he had attended school; a Charity Fund (W) (WOHLTAETIGKEITSFOND), from which subsidies were paid to hospitals and similar institutions; and a Reserve Fund (R), which contained a reserve capital to replenish the other funds. The assets for all these funds came from the Reich Ministry of Finance.

d) Coordination of the Reich Ministries

The task of coordinating the activities of the various ministries also was the concern of the Chief of the Chancellory. Laws proposed by a minister had to be submitted to all other ministers who were interested in the matter. LAMMERS also had to confer continuously with the Director of the Party Chancellory, at first HESS, afterwards BORMANN, since all laws had to be submitted to the Party authorities prior to their publication.

e) Decisions Concerning Petitions and Complaints were also part of the functions of the Chief of the Chancellory.

3. REICH CHANCELLORY STAFF

GRITZINGER was Secretary of State and LAMMERS' deputy. In addition there were four Cabinet Counsellors (KABINETTSRAETE): Dr MEERWALD, MINISTERIAL-DIREKTOR (rank equiv to Maj Gen); STUTTERHEIM, whose special field was occupied territories; WILLUHN, commerce and communication problems; Dr FICKER, administration, organization and state law matters; Dr KILLY, whose special field was civil service law, social security, and finances, was finally removed because of his non-Aryan origins, under pressure by BORMANN. All these officials were specialists.

4. DEALINGS WITH HITLER

In the beginning, when HITLER did not yet govern exclusively through the Party, LAMMERS was an indispensable link between the Reich President and the Reich Chancellor. HINDENBURG at first disliked HITLER because of the latter's loud manner and because HITLER did not fit into HINDENBURG's environment. LAMMERS coached HITLER into controlling himself when reporting to HINDENBURG, and finally the Field Marshal came under HITLER's spell. In this connection LAMMERS recalls that when he came to the NEUDECK estate a few days prior to HINDENBURG's death in order to have some papers signed, HINDENBURG, extremely weak, told LAMMERS: "Give my regards to my dear HITLER".

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/32
29 May 45

Until 37 LAMMERS reported to HITLER four times a week on the current affairs of state. After 37 the Council of Ministers did no longer assemble, and HITLER began to transmit his political will through orders addressed directly to the respective ministers and generals. LAMMERS had no say in matters regarding foreign policy since RIBBENTROP's appointment, he claims. He learned about the attack on Poland only after the beginning of hostilities, LAMMERS claims, and then he had to issue the necessary decrees. GOERING, according to source, was not very much in favor of the war against Poland.

LAMMERS made his last official report to HITLER on 24 Sep 44. He does not recall the subject matter of the report, but states that details are noted in his diaries which are packed in wooden cases and are stored in his official residence in BERCHTESGADEN.

LAMMERS last saw HITLER on 27 Mar 45, when HITLER signed some papers without any comments. LAMMERS subsequently fell into complete disfavor and was even sentenced to death upon BORMANN's urging, he claims.

5. NOTES ON HITLER, BORMANN, RIBBENTROP

a) HITLER

During his first few years in office HITLER repeatedly demonstrated his desire to govern according to laid down laws. This tendency was caused by the fact that HINDENBURG was still alive, and by the somewhat insecure feeling of HITLER as executive. Already after the ROEHM Putsch, however, HITLER started to pay less and less attention to his ministers and governed more and more as a dictator. In matters of foreign policy he relied more on his intuition than on actual facts. He did not tolerate any objections or news of unpleasant happenings. Whoever talked back fell into disgrace and was removed.

After the outbreak of the war with Russia, the Party was the sole ruler in the inner administration of the country. HITLER was particularly annoyed that according to law he could not just fire generals and high officials, but had to pension them. As a result, the REICHSTAG was assembled in fall 43 and a law stating that any man in Germany could be removed from office by HITLER without trial, HITLER being the highest judge in similar matters, was passed. On this occasion HITLER made his speech in which, aside from the generals, he attacked the judges as parasites of the state.

HITLER always tried to avoid harsh measures against deserving Party members who, in source's opinion "did not deserve any decent treatment".

b) BORMANN

Source associated with BORMANN almost daily in line of duty. BORMANN, already Chief of Staff of the Party Chancellory (STABSLEITER DER PARTEIKANZLEI) under Rudolf HESS, came into particularly close contact with HITLER because he also looked after the OBERSALZBERG affairs. HESS paid little attention to current Party matters and BORMANN, who was very industrious, gained more and more in importance. After HESS' flight, HITLER nominated BORMANN as Chief of the Party Chancellory (LEITER DER PARTEIKANZLEI), since he did not want to nominate a successor to HESS; thus BORMANN was given the most important post in the Party administration, and since 42 it could be stated that the Party governed the State, BORMANN was the leading man. In spring 43 BORMANN was appointed secretary to the FUEHRER, which meant that no statesman or Party member could approach HITLER without seeing BORMANN first. Only the generals still retained free access. Whoever objected to BORMANN was removed.

At first BORMANN got along with HIMMLER, but later, when BORMANN tried to interfere with HIMMLER's "Police State", their relationship deteriorated. The unlawful treatment of concentration camp victims was undoubtedly known to BORMANN, but source claims that it had not been ordered

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/32
29 May 45

by him. Most likely HIMMLER is the responsible person, source believes. BORMANN, however, succeeded in removing even the last "non-Aryans" from their positions.

BORMANN was by profession a farmer. He was a small, tough man, intelligent, ambitious, double-faced. He learned quickly. He like alcohol and was frequently criticized by HITLER, who had a dislike for drunks. BORMANN was married to the daughter of Party Judge BUCH; he ill-treated his wife and had difficulties with his father-in-law, whose discharge he finally brought about.

BORMANN at first tried to maintain good relations with LAMMERS, since he could learn a great deal from him. Later, when LAMMERS did not want to submit to him, BORMANN became source's personal enemy.

In source's opinion BORMANN did not dominate HITLER, but he had a strong influence upon him.

c) RIBBENTROP

After HITLER's rise to power, NEURATH's position became difficult, since the Party Office for Matters of Foreign Policy strongly influenced the foreign policy of Germany. HITLER finally dismissed NEURATH, whose ideas he considered too old-fashioned.

HITLER's foreign policy was not stable, because of the multitude of Party agencies interested in the subject. In addition to RIBBENTROP, there was also ROSENBERG and even the Hitler Youth who maintained their own foreign-political offices.

RIBBENTROP is described by source as a cool, realistic person, vain and susceptible to flattery. HITLER thought highly of him, because he encountered little opposition from his part. Source frequently had occasion to report to HITLER minor wishes of foreign diplomats, only to receive the standard answer: "Tell it to RIBBENTROP".

Source claims that all important conferences concerning the war against Poland were held by HITLER with RIBBENTROP and other statesmen "under four eyes only".

29 May 1945

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala,
PAUL KUBALA,
Maj, MI,
Commanding.

S E C R E T