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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of von RIBBENTROP

By: Lt. Colonel Brundage, 13 September 1945, a.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. RIBBENTROP

- a. Minister of Agriculture and Propaganda (p. 2, 4, 6)
- b. Propaganda
 - (1) France (p. 9)
 - (2) England (p. 10)
 - (3) Neutral countries (p. 11)
- c. VDA (p. 15, 16)
- d. NSDAP (p. 16)
- e. AO within the office of the Four Year Plan and Foreign Office (p. 17)
- f. Economic Department (p. 18, 19)
- g. Penetration into Foreign Industry (p. 20)
- h. Cartels
 - (1) The German-French-Luxembourg Steel String (p. 21, 22)
- i. The Kili Syndicate (p. 21, 22)
- j. German Coal Syndicate (p. 21, 22)
- k. German Chamber of Commerce

von Ribbentrop, 13 Sept. 1945, a. m.

Twardowsky was director of the Kulturpolitische Abteilung of the Foreign Office. Its function was to look after German schools and cultural institutions abroad and arrange for exchange of students, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Propaganda Ministry (2,4). Ribbentrop didn't remember whether he planned and layed out the propaganda for the Kulturpolitische Abteilung (5). He was consulted about such things as art exhibitions and, "if it way useful," he approved (6). "In France, but not in other countries, our men could only give the big lines of things, and all technical things and daily work which was most important, such as radio and press controls, were done by the Propaganda Ministry (9). In Britain, before the war, the Cultural Propaganda was done by ourselves, the Foreign Office" (10).

Before the war, the Propaganda Ministry's Foreign Department "always had a tendency" to work in "real neutral countries like Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Sweden" (11). Admitted there was in the Foreign Office a "Beauftragter für Propaganda," Dr. Megerle, with whom, if a propaganda problem would come up in some country, I would discuss it." Megerle would give Ribbentrop's views to the Cultural Office and see to it that it got to the men in the field through "press, cable, and so on" (12-13).

The VDA (Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland) had cultural functions only; similarly the VDM (Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle), where the Nazi Party began to dominate as a result of SS activities. The AO (Auslands-Organisation) had the function of looking after German nationals abroad but had also ambitious people anxious to do something for the Party (15-16). The foreign political office of the NSDAP was never dissolved. Ribbentrop didn't know what functions it had. (16)

There were certain connections between the AO and an office within the Office of the Four-Year Plan, as well as between the latter and the Foreign Office (17). The Foreign Office would, in a general sense, have the supervision; "We would of course not do the work; we only gave the general line, and if a trade treaty was to be made, e. g., with Rumania, Italy, Hungary, our man would be Clodius," assisted by the representatives of the Finance Ministry and the Four-Year Plan. The Economic Department of the Foreign Office would keep records of such economic plans and the consummation of the plans (18-19). Ribbentrop didn't know if there was any special office in the government to help the German penetration into foreign industry, but "It would seem extraordinary if there wasn't such an organization, probably within the Four-Year Plan" (20).

VON RIBBENTROP, 13. Sept. 1945, a. m.

Among German controlled combines and cartels he listed: The German-French-Luxembourg Steel string, the Kali Syndicate, "a big syndicate of phosphates," the German coal syndicate. Deals by those outfits would have been supervised by the Economic Ministry or the Four-Year Plan. He didn't know whether there was any cooperation between these combines and cartels and the German chambers of commerce abroad, but he thought it "quite natural" that there was (21-22).