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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Von RIBBENTROP, Joachim Date: 13 Sept 1945, p.m.
By: Colonel Howard A. Brundage Place: Nurnberg

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects:

1. RIBBENTROP

- a. Persecution of German and Hungarian Jews (p. 1-4, 5, 8, 10-14)
- b. Danubian Plan (p. 15-18)
- c. Anschluss of Austria (p. 19-20)

2. HITLER AND HIMMLER

- a. Hungarian Jews (p. 5)
- b. Political relations with Hungary (p. 22, 23, 24)
 - (1) Horthy (p. 21, 24, 25, 26, 27)

3. SS

- a. Hungarian Jews (p. 6, 7)

4. FESENMEIER

- a. Hungarian Jews (p. 6-7, 15)

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Ribbentrop said he had from the beginning been against the persecution of Jews, for human as well as for reasons of foreign policy. (p.2) After his return from London in 1938 "It became difficult to say anything in favor of Jews." About the measures taken against the Jews in Germany, "I heard occasionally." He said that "upon reports of foreign repercussions of the treatment of Jews," he tried to persuade the Fuehrer to be "tolerant", but the latter and "The Party" disapproved (p.4)

Regarding the Hungarian Jews Ribbentrop said he proposed, after the occupation of Hungary, to let them all emigrate, but Hitler wouldn't have it (p.5). The Jewish question there, as everywhere, was handled by the SS, with orders coming from Himmler or Hitler. He didn't remember details, but recalled that able-bodied Jews were to be put in war industry, which latter measure was a matter treated by Ribbentrop's man Fesemeyer with the Hungarian Government (p. 6-7). He said he recalled making only a single speech which contained an utterance against the Jews, and that was put in by Hitler personally. In view of the anti-Semitic attitude of the Government, however, he, Ribbentrop and his Ministry had to take "corresponding action." (p.8) He admitted he had advocated the deportation of Jews from Hungary to neutral countries (p. 10-14.). The Fuehrer had asked him, Ribbentrop, to wire Fesemeyer to carry out the anti-Jewish measures in Hungary, but in his, Ribbentrop's opinion, that applied only to the Jews in important positions and able to "impair the position of the Reich", and likely to exert influence in favor of a separate peace (p.15).

DANUBIAN PLAN.

Ribbentrop said he never heard of any such plan. (p15-18).

AUSTRIAN ANSCHLUSS

Ribbentrop said in his only conversation with Schuschnigg in 1938, when he emphasized the "inevitability" of closer collaboration between Nazi Germany and Austria, Schuschnigg was "quite content", "very positive", and agreed that "that would have to come". He remembered no details. He proposed "custom Union" and "currency union" with Austria, and a state treaty that would make of Austria "if not direct German Territory, (still) part of Germany." The actual anschluss, however, came as a complete surprise to him (p. 19-20).

HUNGARY

Hitler didn't quite trust Horthy (p. 21). As long as everything went well with Germany Hungarians were most friendly. They were the first to join "The Three Powers Pact," and enthusiastically too. They offered help in the Russian campaign, although Germany didn't ask them for it. Difficulties with Hungary came after Stalingrad, such as separate peace feelers (p. 22-23). After a last discussion with Horthy, the Fuehrer decided he would

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"absolutely occupy that country to "put it in order." (p. 24)
Ribbentrop had a talk with Stoicy and implored him to "save the
situation" with Horthy, get him to agree with Hitler (p.25). He
was certain that Horthy agreed to let German troops march into
Hungary before the fact of such agreement was publicized in the
newspapers. Then he said the conversation between Horthy and
Hitler had ended in "discord and disagreement" (p. 26-27)