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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of ROSENBERG, Alfred
By: Lt. Colonel Hinkel, 25 September 1945, p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. ROSENBERG

a. Confiscation of private property (p. 2)

- (1) Libraries and Masonic Lodges in France (p. 3)
- (2) Document 065-PS dated 1 July 1940 (p. 3)
- (3) Jewish Property (p. 5)
- (4) Einsatzstab Rosenberg and Goring's art collections (p. 6)
- (5) Document 141-PS dated 5 November 1940 (p. 11)
- (6) Property appropriated for personal use (p. 12)
- (7) Document 149-PS (p. 16)
- (8) Disposition of Jewish confiscated property (p. 19)
- (9) Document 142-PS dated 7 January 1941 (p. 24)
- (10) Document 071-PS dated 23 April 1941 (p. 27)
- (11) Other documents (p. 29)

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Private property as such has to be respected, Rosenberg answers regarding the letter to Bornmann discussed in the afternoon session of September 24. However, if certain conditions make it desirable to get hold of it, provisions were made for return of property, or reimbursement. (2) He admits having confiscated the libraries of the Masonic Lodges in France, as the Masonic Lodges were working against the interest of the Germans, therefore, confiscation appeared to witness justified. (3) Identifies documents 065-PS written to Bornmann, dated July 1, 1940, asking him to acquire the libraries of the Paris Masonic Lodge, and transfer them to Germany.

He received shortly after this communication mission from the Fuehrer to found the Einsatzstab Rosenberg. The mission was to confiscate Jewish and other libraries, which were considered to be hostile for the purpose of scientific research. (5) The other mission to safeguard the works of art which had been left in houses and castles. Representatives of the Einsatzstab visited houses in Paris, a brief outline was made and they were sent to Germany. All things concerned with the Free Masons and Jews were forwarded to Frankfurt-on-Main.

Asked as to the relation between Einsatzstab Rosenberg and Goering's art collection activities, witness answers that these were two separate things. At the beginning, he, Rosenberg, was to 'safeguard' everything. At the first transportation, Goering safeguarded for himself a certain portion of these collections. He had instructed the men in charge to put down the things taken by Goering. (6) All these objects of art were finally sheltered in a dry mine in Austria. The representatives of Einsatzstab and OKW agreed upon to consider the Einsatzstab as Wehrmachtsgefolge. (6) Utikal being Rosenberg's representative. (7) Asked why these treasures had to be removed, he answers that they were not safe in the castles left behind, where military people were coming and going. Treasures were at the disposal of the Fuehrer. He admits that also Goering had collected a great deal, and he himself collected only libraries.

He identifies a document written by Goering dated Paris 5 November 1940, (141-PS) regarding distribution between Einsatzstab and Goering. Goering had appropriated himself 100 art objects from the very first shipment they made to Germany, being Goering's responsibility. (11) Rosenberg is evasive as to how much he appropriated for himself.

He admits transportation of objects of art to Germany, however, denies their distribution. All objects of art had been put down in a catalog by Scholtz. (12) Claims that all must have been found by the American troops in the mines.

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Asked as to what dispositions were made by Hitler regarding these objects of art, he, at first, is evasive. He 'assumed that Hitler wanted to return part of it after the war to France.' Questioned whether he was aware of the fact that it was illegal to keep the book acquired, he answers the legal forms had to be taken care of eventually after the war.

He identifies a document written by Hitler on March 1, 1942, appointing Rosenberg to seize materials in cooperation with the chief of OKW in the occupied territories. (149-PS) (16) Admits that in the West he acted in accordance with this order calling for confiscation of property belonging to Jews, or ownerless. (17) Organization acted under the conception that the property belonged to people, hostile, therefore, confiscation was justified. (18) Later on Jewish Furniture was sent to people in Germany, who had lost theirs through bombardment. (19) Rosenberg admits endorsing this procedure.

Asked about the legality of the seizure of French furniture which were made after the armistice was signed, 'the terms of which did not contemplate such a seizure,' Rosenberg admits that in this case, he was not concerned with the legal aspects of the seizure. (21)

Powers given to Ebert are discussed (22), first task to get hold of the masonic lodges and Jewish libraries. Witness admits that Ebert had power to seize any property belonging to Jews. (23)

He identifies a letter written by him on January 7, 1941, (142-PS) in which formally Utikal was asked to perform the duties of Ebert, on account of latter's illness. (24)

He had kept Bernann informed as to activities of the Einsatzstab. Rosenberg is questioned why he kept Bernann informed and replies, because Bernann was head of the Party Chancellery. He had been Chief of Staff of Rudolph Hess, and when Hess got away he remained in the same capacity with the Fuhrer.

Frictions are discussed between Einsatzstab and Police regarding keeping of certain materials which had been confiscated. Asked whether an agreement finally was reached, Rosenberg answers, that arrangements were finally made with Heydrich that the police should keep such books and materials, which were of immediate interest to the police, while Einsatzstab should keep the rest. (27)

Interrogator refers to another letter written to Bernann on April 23, 1941, (071-PS) in which Rosenberg declared any work connected with historical research should come in his province. The police declined and this refusal was maintained. (27) As to storage of materials collected, Rosenberg repeats, at Tanzenberg, in the mines and in various castles in Bavaria. Other names could be found with Scholtz and Utikal.

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Several documents are shown to him: written to Treasury, and others written by Reichsleiter Schwarz, Party Treasurer to him; regarding funds for Einsatzstab, as well as letters written by Chief Director Schimmer and others. They are all identified by Rosenberg.

(29)