

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION

Interrogation of SAUCKEL, Fritz  
By: Major J.J. Monigan, Jr. 13 October 1945, PM, Nurnberg

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Sauckel, 13 October, PM, 1942

PROCUREMENT OF LABOR

Sauckel identified his signature on document Ol6-PS stating that it is a redraft of his original program he drafted when he was appointed to his new office on 21 March. His initial program did not include the clause for conscription of labor. He was told by Bormann, Speer, and the Fuehrer to put in this clause since it was impossible to fill the quota of 1,600,000 workers on a voluntary basis (1-2). Sauckel was likewise given a quota of 400,000 to 500,000 women workers to be imported from Russia (2).

Recognizes Document IV 07-VIII-PS dated 17 May 1943 (2).

Recognizes Document Ol7-PS dated 3 October 1942 issued by his office. Admits that the figure 2,000,000 mentioned therein constituted the total requirements which the Fuehrer had set before him. This was an addition to the quota of 1,600,000 given to him when he first took office (3).

Recognizes his signature on document 13 of documents 556-PS. Speer would normally get in touch with him whenever a new program went into effect and press him to supply the necessary manpower. Admits that when given orders by the Fuehrer through Speer to be more energetic in recruiting labor, he, in turn, gave corresponding directives to his subordinates. Controversy arose between him and Speer because he advocated a more economical policy in the distribution and exploitation of manpower whereas Speer constantly pressed for more workers (5). Sauckel negotiated with District Commissar Magunia in Kiev in matters of labor procurement in this district (5). Sauckel himself never issued instructions to the field. This was handled by the various sections in the ministry.

Admits issuing orders establishing a fixed program of action to be taken when people in the field encountered difficulty in filling the quota. He always insisted on correct conscription procedure. Does not know actual means of recruiting used in the field. Recruiting was handled by local administrators (6).

CONSCRIPTION AND TREATMENT OF FOREIGN LABOR

Recalls having issued a decree advocating good treatment of foreign labor in Germany (7). Whenever mistreatment of foreign workers came to his attention he gave strict orders to rectify this condition (7-8).

Bruno Walter report concerning activities of Gauleiter Koch in regard to mistreatment of workers merely concerned misunderstanding of the psychology of Russians and Ukrainians. Sauckel insists he issued instructions that no physical punishment be administered to Russian workers in Germany but admits that he does not know how much physical mistreatment occurred in Russia. Also admits that there were constant rumors concerning this (9).

Physical mistreatment of Russian workers was called to his attention by eastern specialists of Rosenberg (9). Although individual factory owners were not under his direct orders, Sauckel felt himself called upon to see to it that decent treatment was accorded workers assigned by him (10).

Sauckel, 13 October, PM, 1944

Admits there were cases of mistreatment of eastern workers but insists that he and Rosenberg discussed measures to improve these conditions (11).

#### CHILD LABOR

Sauckel states that the age limit of foreign workers conscripted for German industry was not below 15. Insists that "juvenile eastern workers under 14 who were to be put to work" referred to in his order of 26 March 1944, were brought to Germany only as members of a family which did not want to be separated or families which were evacuated (12).

Is unable to identify Memorandum 338-PS dated 6 June 1944. Says that statement to the effect that children of 10 were to be brought to Germany for labor is "completely impossible". It is possible that Russian children were employed for light labor in the same way German school children were employed (14).

#### LEGAL BASIS FOR CONSCRIPTION OF FOREIGN LABOR

The Fuehrer legally justified conscription of labor in occupied countries by stating that these countries were to be considered as territories where special legal conditions existed (15). Sauckel was told that conscription of foreign labor on a contract basis was in accordance with the capitulation terms of the respective countries. This theory was supported by Speer, the Foreign Office, and the OKW. Speer repeatedly asked Sauckel to go to France to procure labor (16).

It was Speer who insisted on the necessity to import foreign labor. The only exception were the "blocked industries" abroad whose manpower was not to be deported by order of Speer (17). Dr. Schieber in Speer's department was concerned with production abroad and Sauer handled production in Germany (18). The blocked industry policy was also a subject of controversy between Sauckel and Speer since the latter refused to release skilled labor from these plants for work in Germany (19).

Sauckel asked Speer at a discussion of the labor program for 1944 to withdraw his demands; Speer declined and the Fuehrer then increased the program by 1,000,000 men. Sauckel informed them on this occasion that he could not guarantee the fulfillment of this program (19).