

OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
AFC 403, US ARMY
INTERROGATION DIVISION

Interrogation
129

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Brief of
Interrogation of Generalfeldmarschall HUGO SPERRLE

by
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SPERRLE was interrogated on his part in the Spanish Civil War. He states that shortly before Nov 1, 1936, he was called to Berlin and ordered to go to Spain to take charge of the Condor Legion because an older officer was needed to give more discipline to the work of the German Air Force "Volunteers" then in Spain. He was not briefed by Goering other than by the general instructions to report to Franco under whose command he served while there. He admits that orders came from time to time from Goering as to action to be taken and states that reports were made at least every two weeks on the current state of operations. He claims to have disagreed with Franco particularly on the question of taking Madrid, and on the campaign in the Northeast, and states that Franco finally took his advice in these cases. He does not admit to any knowledge of political policy in connection with Spain, but states simply that German action was meant to counteract Red influence. He did not know Marlimont was already there and though he conferred with Marlimont on his arrival, has no recollection of matters discussed. He knows that JU-52's transported a portion of Franco's troops to Spain in July 1936, but was not involved in the decision to do this. He is not familiar with measures taken to get "volunteers" into Spain, but assumes that they were taken in German planes. He does not know how recruiting was done in Germany. He lists the German equipment and personnel in Spain in the early stages of the War and the amounts by which this was increased shortly before his departure for Spain.

SPERRLE was interrogated briefly on his relations with Goering. He claims to have had only three or four private conversations with Goering. The first of these was held in 1934 and at this time SPERRLE claims to have warned Goering against war with Russia on the ground that the Russians were far stronger than anyone was ready to admit. Goering's reply was "Ach, the Russians have never won a war yet".

Further interrogation is planned regarding preparations for the invasion of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland and with regard to Sperrle's contacts with Goering.