

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: SPEER, Albert
By: Lt. Colonel M.I. Gurfein, 18 October 1945, p.m.

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. SPEER
 - a. Central Planning Board
 - (1) Speer, Milch, Keernor, Funk (p.3)
 - b. Conscription of foreign labor
 - (1) PW's (p.8-10,21,22)
 - (2) Russian PW's (p.22)
 - c. Document (1584-PS Document V)
 - (1) Hold Sauer responsible (p.10)
2. SAUCKEL
 - a. Responsible for labor quotas (p.17,19)
3. KEHRL
 - a. Subordinate to Speer on Planning Board of production industry (p.3-5)
4. BORNMANN AND RIBBENTROP
 - a. Took part in conscription of Foreign Labor (p.9,10)
5. USE OF PW's IN PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS (p.21,22).

ALBERT SPEER, 18 October 1945, p.m.

Questioning concerns itself with the Central Planning Board of which Speer, Milch, Koerner, and later Funk were members. Attended all the meetings with the exception of those held from February until May 1944. During his illness was kept informed of the proceedings of the Central Planning Board and after recuperations he read the exact minutes. Speer and Milch usually agreed upon what to do at the meetings of the Central Planning Board, considering Koerner as a subordinate. Kehrl was in charge of the Planning Board of the Production Industry and this board made a draft for the sessions of the Central Planning Board (page 3 of transcript). Kehrl was dependant subordinate in the above position but also had a second function on the Planning Board of the Plenipotentiary General for Armaments. Took over the following positions 8 February 1942, the Army Office For Armaments; July 1943, the Armament Office of the Air Force. The securing of sufficient supply of labor was one of the greatest problems attached to above positions (p.5). Sauckel's department supplied the labor from the following sources: German labor from shifting industrial locations; foreign manpower from abroad; PW's and workers from concentration camps. Claims that PW's were distributed before he entered office. Claims that he demanded manpower and foreign manpower from Sauckel very "energetically," and knew that they were not coming voluntarily. (8-10) Sauckel made requests for foreign workers to Bormann who in turn asked Hitler. From there on the military received instructions, also Ribbentrop, who had to come to agreement with the French. Was present at one of the discussions that Sauckel had with Hitler (p.9,10). Concurred with the general policy of forcing civilian labor from the occupied countries to come to Reich. (p.10) Believed that foreign workers had been forced to come to Germany (p.12) only objected when passport of foreign workers did great damage to production in occupied countries (p.12). The use of concentration Camp labor was known and approved by Speer. (p.13) Denied writing letter dated 17 April 1944 (1584 Ps Document V); attributes it to Sauer. Denied having any responsibility for bringing 100,000 Hungarian Jews to Germany for the Dosch Project. However, he did not object in anyway after finding out that it was actually accomplished (p.10).

In 1942 when decisions were made concerning the use of forced foreign labor he participated in such discussions with Hitler. (p.18) Sauckel's plans were based on decisions made at above conference, and Speer admits that foreign labor was used specifically for the armament industries; states that the greater part of them were forced (p.19). Identifies his signed document, dated 8. July 1943, with a No. 17 on it relating to the use of 150,000 to 200,000 Russian PW's for mining. - Specifically states that PW's of all nationalities were used in armament factories. - (p.21) Prisoners of War were secured from the employment offices of the Stalags. (p.22) He tried to increase the use of PW's in production above the 40% being used. (p.22) Production is specifically referred to as that of weapons and munitions. (p.22).