

S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/26
27 May 1945

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER
APO 758 US ARMY

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: S E C R E T :
:Auth: CG, 7th Army :
:Init: P.K. :
:Date: 27 May 1945 :
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HANS FRANK CLAIMS INNOCENCE

1. SOURCE

FRANK, Hans, GOVERNOR GENERAL of POLAND. After reporting for duty as a lieutenant to the 9 Int Regt upon the opening of German hostilities against Poland, source received orders from HITLER to take over the administration of Poland. He proceeded to Silesia, where the FUEHRER welcomed him in his special train and gave him his final order, by which source claims to have guided himself throughout the period of his regime in Poland: "(You will) so administer the country that we may draw from it the greatest possible use for the war."

Source took office 7 Nov 39 in CRACOW. In 44 he returned to Germany, with his staff and documents, having fled before the Russian advance. He was captured at his estate at NEUHAUS/SCHLIERSEE by American troops.

FRANK has attempted suicide twice since his capture. Weakened through loss of blood, he talks only with effort.

Source is clever and, knowing the danger of his present situation in the light of his past record, is dramatic and persuasive in trying to vindicate himself. He now condemns the Nazi ideals, although, as president of the Academy of German Law (AKADEMIE DES DEUTSCHEN RECHTES) he had a strong voice in the formulation of the Nazi conceptions of right.

Rating: C-3

Date of Information: See text

Interrogator: W.K.

2. ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY RECORD

Source is familiar, through the press, with the accusations made against him as Governor General of Poland. He insists that he wanted only to further Polish interests, but that he always encountered difficulties, and had actually very little to say in the administration of the country.

He says that the Poles, a Slavic people and not Asiatic, should be considered absolutely Western and European. Their upper strata are enemies of Bolshevism, and of Russia. But at the same time unfortunately, they are enemies of Germany.

Source made the following explanations, which he is very anxious to have considered in the examination of his record:

a) "Beside me in Poland stood the 'REICHS Commissioner for the Strengthening of German Nationalism Abroad' (REICHSKOMMISSAR FUEER DIE FESTIGUNG DEUTSCHEN VOLKSTUMS IM AUSLAND), HIMMLER, who commanded the Police, and upon whom I had no influence."

b) "Economically the country was under GOERING, who, as chief of the Four-Year-Plan, could exploit the country as he pleased. GOERING's motto was, "Let the Poles starve; I need grain for Germany."

c) "GAULEITER SAUCKEL had the Polish manpower at his disposal, and could deport Polish men and women for labor without consulting me."

(NOTE: The above statements, confirmed by REICHSMINISTER Dr LAMMERS, do NOT remove FRANK's responsibility, but help to establish the guilt of HIMMLER, GOERING and SAUCKEL.)

Source also tries to place responsibility on the German military commanders in Poland, particularly GENOBST (Col Gen) VON BLASKOWITZ. He claims that atrocities - murder and looting - had been committed by German troops in Poland prior to his taking office there in Nov 39; and that it was at that time that the Polish resistance movement originated.

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3. GOVERNOR GENERAL'S STAFF IN POLAND

Source gave the following as the personnel of his staff in Poland:

SEYSS-INQUART, Dr	Deputy to FRANK.
BUEHLER, Dr	Chief of Government; Secretary of State.
SIEBER, Dr	
VON KRAUSHAAR (Later)	Dept of Interior.
EMMERICH, Dr	Dept of Economics.
SPINDLER	
SENKOVSKY (Later)	President of the Treasury.
FRAUNDORFER	Dept of Labor.
WILLE	Dept of Justice.
NAUMANN	Nutrition
GERDEIS	Railways
LAUXMANN	Postal Dept
KRUEGER, HOEHERER SS u. POLIZEIFUEHRER: (Superior SS and Police Leader)	Liaison men to HIMMLER; carried out his orders in police matters without PW's knowledge.
KOPPE, HOEHERER SS u. POLIZEIFUEHRER: (Superior SS and Police Leader)	

4. CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Source declares that he had nothing to do with the establishment of concentration camps, nor with sending persons to them. He claims he became familiar with the atrocities committed in MAJDANEK only through the foreign press after the entry of the Russians, and immediately addressed a letter to KOPPE demanding an explanation.

Previously he had known of the camp only as the "Central Collecting Point for the Security Service" (ZENTRALES SAMMELLAGER FUEER DAS SICHERHEITS-WESEN). His only other previous knowledge about concentration camps was that early in the war the police had been taking prisoners to the camp at AUSCHWITZ, Silesia.

When the interrogator observed that the German governors in LUBLIN (under FRANK) must have known of the awful conditions in MAJDANEK, source became involved in self-contradictions, and finally had to admit that the question had been brought up before the chief training leader (HAUPTSCHULUNGSLEITER) of the Party, SCHMIDT. The responsible LUBLIN governors were:

ZOERNER, Dr	Former OBERBUERGERMEISTER, DRESDEN.
WENDLER, Dr	Former BUERGERMEISTER, HOF

The man responsible for the MAJDANEK camp was GRUF (SS Maj Gen) GLOBOT-SCHNIG, a native of KAERNTHEN, and of Slovenian descent. Source says he was a rather brutal man, and a one-time GAULEITER in VIENNA.

5. ANTI-SEMITIC ATROCITIES

Regarding the systematic murder of the Jews in Poland, source spoke as follows: "As a lawyer I am opposed to lawless disregard and killing of human beings. I believe a secret law exists providing for the extermination of

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the Jews, and agreed upon only by HITLER, HIMMLER, and HEYDRICH."

Source further stated that HITLER must have known of these murders and approved of them, since he himself had once notified HITLER of the unlawful activities of the SS in Poland.

Source claims that besides HITLER, guilt is on the heads of HIMMLER, HEYDRICH, GLOBOTSCHNIG, and the smaller SS leaders who carried out mass murders without orders from above.

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Paul Kubala
PAUL KUBALA,
Maj, MI,
Commanding.

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