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

INTERROGATION DIVISION

Interrogation of: Lammers, Hans Heinrich Date: 1 Sept. 1945, AM
By: Colonel Thomas A. Hinkel Place: Nuremberg

PERSON IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS.

1. LAMMERS

- a. Personal history (pp. 1-2)
- b. Relations with Nazi Party (pp 7, 9, 10)
- c. Political positions and his duties (pp 3-9)
- d. Relation with Hindenburg (p 12)

Hans Heinrich Lammers, 1 September 1945 a.m.

DUTIES

Born at Lublinitz 27 May 1879. Married and has two daughters. Up to 1939 Ministerialrat in the Ministry of Interior; worked on State and Administrative laws (p.5), and Chief of the Reich Chancellery after Hindenburg's death. Insisted he was merely a technical expert in handling administrative matters there (p.5). Last position was Chief of the secretarial department of the Reich Ministry; Secretary for the State Chancellery (29 or 30 January 1933) (p.8,9), then Minister. Was a link between the Fuehrer and all the Reich Ministers. Sometimes Hitler contacted the ministers directly, always in important matters of foreign policy. Usually the new laws were presented to him by the Reich Ministers to be referred to the Fuehrer, but Lammers had no control over the laws in any way. He had to investigate new laws and orders before presenting them to the Fuehrer, co-ordinate conflicting opinions and submit them to Hitler. Collected the signatures of all the Reich Ministers on all new laws before placing them before Hitler for his final signature (p.2,3). Lammers signature followed that of the ministers but was only to show that the matter was ready for Hitler and that he had talked with the ministers (p.3,4).

PURPOSE OF SIGNATURE

Initialed the laws as Secretary of State beside the Fuehrers signature, as a routine; did not legalize the laws since his signature was not needed to make the laws valid (as minister signed full name).

DUTIES AS MINISTER

It was Lammers duty to co-ordinate all the administration of the Reich, to supervise the election of new commissars, to administrate the Fuehrer's monetary affairs and those of the State Chancellery. He had to supervise the election of higher personnel, to deal with applications and complaints which came to the Fuehrer's office and also had charge of money to give assistance in extraordinary cases. He could not fulfill his main functions of interior and external politics and the general administration of the Reich because he did not have access to the Fuehrer as often as necessary for this purpose, having lost prestige with the Fuehrer in 1933 and 1934 (p.6). Lammers joined the Nazi Party in 1932. Membership over one million. Decided to join the Party as a result of his acquaintance with various Party members in the Reichstag (p.7).

Hans Heinrich Lammers, 1 September 1945, a.m.

HISTORY

He was referent for administrative law in Berlin at the Reich Ministry for the Interior when he joined the Party. Did not enter the Reichstag at that time except to listen to the proceedings (p.8). Lammers met Hitler first in 1922. He was not long term Party Member. Lammers had never sworn to any of the principles of the Nazi Party since he was never asked to (p.9,10).

CONTACT WITH HINDENBURG

Before Hitler became Reich Chancellor Lammers had no dealings whatever with Hindenburg. Lammers was greatly surprised at the election of Hitler. After this he did spend occasional short periods with Hindenburg, who at first disliked the idea of Hitler becoming Reich Chancellor. Lammers helped Hitler by making suggestions as to how to get along with Hindenburg. Lammers wanted Hindenburg and Hitler to get on well together (p.12).