

SECRET

53,058

OUTLINE FOR SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR INTERROGATION OF

EMIL VON RINTELEN

1. Secure personal biography of P/W from birth in Stettin 10 January 1887 to his capture 7 May 1945 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, including all official positions held, beginning with his appointment as Attache in the Foreign Office of Berlin 1 July 1921, (all as covered in Report of Interrogation # 5509 by G-2).
2. Give the nature of the work you did in each of the official positions you held, the jurisdiction you exercised in each, and the opportunity you had in each to observe and become familiar with the development and carrying out of German foreign policy from 1921 until the invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939.
3. What is your religious or church affiliation?
4. When did you become a member of the Nazi Party and under what circumstances, that is what influences led you to join the party?
5. Were you in sympathy with the aims and purposes of the Nazi Party and with the means used by it for the accomplishment of those aims and purposes, when you joined the Party?
6. If the answer to question 5 is the negative, give in detail the reasons why you were not in sympathy with those aims, purposes and means.
7. How soon after the end of World War I did the ruling powers in Germany form the determination to abrogate and overthrow the Treaty of Versailles and its restrictions upon the military armament and activity of Germany and to re-acquire the territories lost by Germany as the result of World War I?
8. Do you recall political activities of the German Officers' Corps, in line with the determination referred to in question 7, prior to Hitler's appointment as Chancellor on 30 January 1933?
9. Tell what you recall about the super-nationalist government in Bavaria in 1923, under General Ludendorff and his follower, Adolf Hitler, which broke with the Government of the Reich and contended for local power in Bavaria using organizations marching under the swastika symbol.
10. What, if you know, were the aims of the super-nationalistic government in Bavaria referred to in question 9?

SECRET

SECRET

11. Tell as much as you can about the activities of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, in 1923, in stabilizing the mark.
12. Give any ideas you may have as to why the mark was previously allowed to run through the course of inflation until one pre-stabilization mark came to be worth only one one-trillionth of the value of one new Reichmark.
13. Was not the inflation thus allowed to run its course for the deliberate purpose of enabling Germany to repudiate the reparations payments called for by the Treaty of Versailles?
14. Tell what you know about the abortive Munich beer hall putsch of 1923 including a statement as to what were the aims and purposes of that putsch.
15. Was not the aim of the Munich Putsch of 1923 to overthrow the Weimar Republic by direct action and violence?
16. After the failure of the Munich Putsch of 1923, how did the Nazi Party set about seeking to acquire power in Germany -- was it not by the use of terrorism and violence to acquire the forms of legal power?
17. Tell as much as you know about the creation of the "SA" (Sturmabteilung) and its early use, following the Munich Putsch as an instrument of terrorism by the use of which the Nazi Party sought to acquire power by legal forms.
18. Who were the leading spirits in the Nazi Party at this time, that is immediately following the Munich Putsch?
19. Tell what you know about how Hitler happened to become Chancellor of the German Republic on 30 January 1933 and about what part, if any, Franz von Papen played in causing Hitler to be named Chancellor.
20. Tell what you know about the relationship at this time between Hitler and Hermann Wilhelm Goering, Rudolf Hess, Alfred Rosenberg, Martin Bormann, Fritz Sauckel, and Baldur von Schirach.
21. Tell what you know about the Reichstag fire of 28 February 1933 and about the subsequent trials.
22. What is your best judgement as to the relationship of the Reichstag fire and the trials to the aims and purposes of Hitler and the Nazi Party, at the time, to acquire political control in Germany?
23. After the Reichstag fire do you recall that the Nazis suspended clauses of the Weimar Constitution guaranteeing personal liberty, freedom of speech, of the Press, of associations and assembly and do you recall which articles of the constitution they were and how they were suspended?

SECRET

24. Are you familiar with the fact that after the Nazis secured the passage by the Reichstag of the "Law for the Protection of the People and the Reich," giving Hitler and the members of his then Cabinet plenary powers of legislation, they retained those extra-ordinary powers after having changed the members of the cabinet?
25. What changes in the cabinet membership were made at that time?
26. Do you recall how the Nazis caused all other political parties than the Nazi Party to be prohibited and when this was done?
27. How was the Nazi Party coordinated with the Government and given governmental powers and extraordinary privileges?
28. Is it not the fact that by these means the Nazi Party acquired complete control of the machinery of the German State?
29. After the Nazis thus acquired control of the machinery of the German state, is it not the fact that they thereupon set about the consolidation of their position of power within Germany by exterminating potential internal resistance in Germany to the aims and purposes of the Party?
30. What control did the Nazi Party acquire over the Reichstag and how was that control secured?
31. In what ways and to what extent did the Nazi Party curtail the freedom of popular elections throughout Germany?
32. What did the Nazis do with respect to depriving the several states, provinces and municipalities of their previous semi-antonomous powers and transforming them into mere administrative organs of the central government?
33. How and when were the offices of the President and the Chancellor united in the person of Hitler?
34. Tell what you know about the purging of civil servants by the Nazis?
35. How widespread was such purge and how did it further contribute to complete control by the Nazi Party?
36. What was done by the Nazis to restrict the independence of the judiciary and to render it subservient to Nazi aims?
37. Tell what you know about the use by the Nazi Party of a system of terror against opponents or suspected opponents of the regime by such means as arrest without judicial process, holding them in "protective custody", and putting them in concentration camps where they were persecuted, degraded, despoiled of property, subjected to enforced labor, tortured or murdered.

38. What connection, if you know, did Hermann Goering have with the establishment of these concentration camps in 1933?
39. What connection did the "SS" and the Gestapo have with the use of the concentration camps for these terroristic purposes?
40. What other organizations, if any, had a hand in these terroristic methods carried out in the concentration camps?
41. What was done by the Nazis to destroy free trade unions in Germany, confiscate their properties, and persecute their leaders?
42. Explain in detail the Nazi doctrine known as the Fuehrerprinzip or leadership-principle.
43. How did the Nazis apply the Fuehrerprinzip to employer-employee relations?
44. What effect, if any, did this treatment of labor unions and the application of the Fuehrerprinzip to employer-employee relations have in frustrating any potential resistance of German Workers to the program of the Nazis?
45. What steps did the Nazis take to subvert the influence of the churches over the people, particularly over the youth of Germany, to substitute Nazi beliefs, and to persecute priests, clergy and members of monastic orders.
46. With what beliefs did the Nazis indoctrinate the youth of Germany, in substitution for Christian doctrines, and how did they use for these ends the organization known as the Hitlerjugend, or Hitler Youth?
47. Tell what you know about persecution by the Nazis of pacifist groups, such as Jehovah's Witnesses.
48. What was the meaning of the Nazi doctrine of die Herrenvolk or the Master Race?
49. Pursuant to the Herrenvolk doctrine, what steps did the Nazis take with respect to persecution of Jews in Germany and attempt to exterminate them?
50. What special connection did Alfred Rosenberg, Julius Streicher and Robert Ley have with the Nazi program of persecution of the Jews?
51. What controls did the Nazis impose over cultural activities, dissemination of information and expression of opinion within Germany and the movement of intelligence from and into Germany?



52. Tell what you know about the setting up of propaganda machines and the use of propaganda by the Nazis to indoctrinate the German people with Nazi doctrines.
53. What did the Nazis do about putting their subsidiary and dominated organizations on a military footing with a view to their ultimate transformation and use as instruments of war?
54. What such organizations were militarized or put on a semi-militarized footing?
55. In what ways did the Nazis use organizations of German business as instruments of economic preparation and mobilization for war?
56. How did they direct Germany's economy toward preparations and equipment of the military machine?
57. Tell what you know about directions of finance, capital investment, and foreign trade toward preparation and equipment of the military machine.
58. What stockpiles of goods and supplies for war were laid up and how was this done?
59. When was the large re-armament program inaugurated and how was it carried out?
60. What connection, if you know, did Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach have with the industrial rearmament program?
61. Tell what you know about the establishment of the office of the Four Year Plan with Hermann Goering as its plenipotentiary.
62. What kind of controls did Goering have over German economy, under the Four Year Plan, and how did he conduct that plan in preparation for war?
63. Tell what you know about the appointment, about 30 August 1939, of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich to act as the War Cabinet; and who were the members of that War Cabinet?
64. What do you know about the appointment, of Walter Funk about 28 August 1939, as "Plenipotentiary for Economics" and about what he did in that office in preparation for offensive war against Poland.
65. Going back now to the middle of the year 1933, when the Nazis had acquired governmental and economic control over Germany, and were in a position to enter into further and more detailed planning with reference to foreign policy. I believe you at that time held the position in the Foreign Office of head of the Western European Section, is that right?

66. In that position you were intimately familiar, were you not, with developments in the foreign policy of the Nazis as they effected Western Europe?
67. Tell all you know about the Nazi plan to re-occupy and fortify the Rhineland, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles and other subsequent treaties, and how that plan was carried out?
68. Tell what you know about secret re-armament of Germany by the Nazis, between 1933 and March 1935, including secret training of military personnel, production of munitions of war, and building of an air force, contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles and other subsequent treaties.
69. Tell what you know, from your position in the Foreign Office, as to the Nazis leading Germany to leave the International Disarmament Conference and to withdraw, from the League of Nations.
70. What discussions, if any, did you have about these steps with the Foreign Minister and who was your Foreign Minister at that time?
71. Who gave the instructions for the withdrawal from the Disarmament Conference and from the League of Nations?
72. Are you familiar with the announcement the Nazis made to the world on 21 May 1935 that they would respect the territorial limitations of the Versailles Treaty and would comply with Germany's obligations under the Locarno Pact?
73. What discussions did you have with the Foreign Minister or others in the Foreign Office, or what papers or communications did you see, or what facts do you have knowledge of, which lead you to believe that that announcement was falsely made to deceive other nations and to allay their fears of aggressive intentions of Germany?
74. After the Nazis re-occupied and fortified the Rhineland on 7 March 1936, contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles and the Rhine Pact of Locarno of 16 October 1925, they announced to the world that "we have territorial demands to make in Europe." What information do you have as to high policy planning of the Nazis at that time which may lead you to believe that that announcement was falsely made to deceive other European nations and to allay their fears as to the aggressive intentions of the Nazis and of Nazi Germany?
75. Is it not the fact that at that very time the doctrine of Lebensraum was a fundamental Nazi doctrine of the Nazi Party and a cardinal doctrine of German foreign policy?

76. Just what was meant by the Nazi doctrine of Lebensraum and what was the historical connection between that doctrine and older pan-german expansionist doctrines, such as the Drang nach Osten, and the later Haushofer doctrine of Geopolitics? Explain this fully.
77. Was not another cardinal doctrine of Nazi foreign policy the doctrine of the deutsches Volk, that all persons of German blood, wherever located, should be joined together in one racial community under the control of Nazi Germany?
78. That doctrine was epitomized, was it not, in the Nazi slogan "Ein Reich, ein Volk, ein Fuehrer"?
79. Is it not true that that doctrine was not limited to the theory of ein Volk, or the demand for a unified German race, but also included the concept of the Herrenvolk, whereby it was contended that the racial Germans were a master race, entitled by their blood and qualities to dominate other supposedly inferior races?
80. It is true, is it not, that within the Nazi concept of "racial Germans" they considered the Austrians as of the same Volk as the Germans and hence formulated as one of their basic aims the incorporation of Austria into the Reich?
81. How early did the Nazis begin to plan the taking over of Czechoslovakia?
82. In their planning with regard to taking Czechoslovakia, it is true, is it not, that the Nazis constantly treated German minorities in Czechoslovakia, particularly in the Sudetenland, as part of the German Volk, who ought to be incorporated into the Reich, together with the Czechoslovakian territories which they occupied?
83. Tell what the military strength and power for resistance against aggression of Czechoslovakia was, from 1937 to 1939, as compared with the military strength and power of resistance of Austria.
84. Was the Czechoslovakian power of resistance also strengthened by military alliances with Great Britain and France so that an invasion of or assault against Czechoslovakia was a much more hazardous game for the Nazis than an invasion of or assault against Austria?
85. What role did Italy and Mussolini play, prior to 1938, in preventing Nazi Germany from taking over Austria or forming an Anschluss with Austria? Give us this history in some detail please.

86. Give as much as you know of the events leading up to and culminating in the assassination of Dolfuss especially giving any facts known to you which would indicate responsibility of the German Nazi Party for his assassination.
87. It is the fact, is it not, that the leadership of the German Nazi Party recognized that it was strategically impracticable to attack Czechoslovakia without first having secured control over Austria, so as to flank Czechoslovakia on the South as well as on the North and West?
88. What discussions did you hear, either in the Foreign Office, or among the leaders of the Nazi Party, prior to March 1938, regarding plans for the taking over of Austria or regarding a broader plan for the successive taking over first of Austria and then of Czechoslovakia? Give approximate times of the discussions, names of those present, and details of the discussions.
89. What documents did you see in the Foreign Office dealing with such plans regarding Austria and Czechoslovakia and give the substance of such documents?
90. It is true, is it not, that by the autumn of 1937 practically all opposition to the Nazi program had been crushed within Germany?
91. Tell what you know about military preparations specifically directed at the carrying out of the Austrian Venture and what was the state of those preparations by the autumn of 1937?
92. Tell whatever you know about a meeting of an influential group of Nazis with Hitler on or about 5 November 1937, in which the then situation in Europe was reviewed, the Nazi demand for Lebensraum at the expense of neighboring countries was discussed, the danger that the conquest of Lebensraum might precipitate general war was considered and discounted as a risk worth taking, and three possible plans, for the conquest of Austria and Czechoslovakia were outlined.
93. Were you present at that meeting?
94. If so, who else was present?
95. If you were not present at that meeting, did you ever see a report of what occurred at the meeting?
96. What were the three possible plans for the conquest of Austria and Czechoslovakia formulated at that meeting, the choice between which was to depend on developments in the political and military situation in Europe?



97. What consideration was given at that meeting to the increase in the population of the Reich to result from the taking over of Austria and Czechoslovakia, and the consequent ability to increase the army of the Reich by some 12 divisions.
98. What consideration was given to the shortening and improvement of the eastern frontiers of the Reich to result from the conquest of Austria and Czechoslovakia and with particular reference to the flanking of Poland along the Polish-Slovakian border?
99. Tell what you know about the conference between Hitler and Chancellor Schuschnigg at Berchtesgaden on 8 February 1938, and give the sources of your knowledge, whether written reports or documents in the Foreign Office or elsewhere, or oral statements by any person present at the conference.
100. What was the position of Seyss-Inquart in Austria at this time?
101. Tell what you know about agitations within Austria by Austrian Nazis, at this time, for an Anschluss with Germany and tell what part the Nazi Party in Germany played in fostering such agitation in Austria.
102. What did Hitler do when Schuschnigg, on 9 March 1938, announced a plebiscite for the following Sunday on the question of Austrian independence or Anschluss with Germany.
103. How many ultimata did Hitler send Schuschnigg and what were they?
104. Did Schuschnigg resign upon receipt of the second ultimatum?
105. Who succeeded him as Chancellor of Austria?

107. What did Seyss-Inquart do about inviting Hitler to send German troops into Austria?
108. When did the invasion of Austria begin?
109. After Austria was annexed to Germany it formed the lower jaw of the wolf, so that the main part of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia was completely encircled and caught in the jaws of the wolf, is that right?
110. Is it not true that the Nazis, simultaneously with the annexation of Austria, gave assurance to Czechoslovakia that they would not attack that country?
111. What information do you have, from your position in the foreign office or from other sources, that leads you to the conclusion that at the very time these assurances were given to Czechoslovakia the leading Nazis were actually planning the conquest of Czechoslovakia?
112. I believe that von Ribbentrop succeeded von Neurath as Foreign Minister on or about 5 February 1938. Is that right?
113. And you were still, at that time, head of the Western European Section of the Foreign Office, were you not?
114. Did you have any discussions with von Ribbentrop, or did you hear him have any discussions with anyone else, in which plans for the conquest of Czechoslovakia were discussed, between the date when von Ribbentrop became Foreign Minister and about 21 April 1938, and if so give in full the substance of such discussions?
115. Tell all that you know about a meeting of the leading Nazis on or about 21 April 1938, at which they made definite plans to attack Czechoslovakia not later than 1 October 1938.
116. Did you attend that meeting?
117. Did von Ribbentrop attend that meeting?
118. Did he tell you what took place at that meeting or did you see any minutes or report of what took place at that meeting and, if so, give the substance of what he told you or of what you read in such minutes or report.
119. Who else was present at that meeting?
120. What discussion was had at that meeting or elsewhere at about the same time, among the leading Nazis, with reference to creating an "incident" to be used as the pretext, or supposed justification, for a German attack on Czechoslovakia?

121. What discussion by von Ribbentrop or statement by him, regarding such a proposed incident, did you hear at any time?
122. What consideration, if any, was given by the leading Nazis to engineering the assassination of the German ambassador at Prague, so as to create the necessary incident to be used as the pretext of justification for a German attack on Czechoslovakia?
123. What, if anything, did you ever hear von Ribbentrop say about such a proposed assassination of the German ambassador at Prague?
124. Did you ever hear Hitler or Goering or von Papen or von Neurath say anything about such proposed assassination and if so what was said by either of them?
125. Did you hear any statement by either of them or by von Ribbentrop, at about that time, that is about 21 April 1938, or shortly theretofore or thereafter, indicating a determination on the part of the leading Nazis to attack and conquer Czechoslovakia, and if so what was said and by whom?
126. Tell all that you know about military plans prepared on or after 21 April 1938, designed to carry out an attack on Czechoslovakia at an opportune moment.
127. Trace the development of military plans for such an attack during the months of May, June, July, August and September 1938.
128. Trace the development during these months of foreign affairs, and particularly as to relations between Nazi Germany and Czechoslovakia, as bearing on the Nazi selection of the "opportune" time for the projected attack on Czechoslovakia.
129. Describe how the Nazis, throughout this period, agitated the question of the German minorities in Czechoslovakia, and particularly in the Sudetenland, as a pretext for an assault upon Czechoslovakia.
130. Tell all that you know about the use that Hitler and other leading Nazis made of Konrad Henlein, the so-called leader of the Sudeten Germans, in this connection.
131. Tell what you know about the events immediately leading up to the capitulation of Czechoslovakia at Munich on 29 September 1938 and all that you know about that capitulation itself, in which Czechoslovakia ceded the Sudetenland to Germany.
132. Outline the events following the Pact of Munich and leading up to and including the seizure by the Nazis by the armed forces of Germany, of Bohemia and Moravia, in violation of the terms of the Pact of Munich itself.
133. Did the Nazis thereafter again give assurances of peaceful intentions and of absence of intention to commit further aggressions and, if so, what such assurances were given?

134. What discussions by von Ribbentrop did you hear at about this time indicating an actual Nazi plan to invade Poland?
135. What discussions by Hitler or Goering or by any other of the leading Nazis did you hear at about this time indicating an actual Nazi plan to invade Poland?
136. Tell that you know about a meeting of leading Nazis on or about 23 May 1939 at which the European situation was reviewed and the decision was made to attack Poland at the first suitable opportunity, regardless of the risk that Great Britain and France would comply with their treaty obligations to Poland and fight in her defense.
137. What in your opinion was the real reason for the attack on Poland?
138. The Danzig issue was a mere pretext for the attack on Poland, was it not?
139. Trace in detail the diplomatic handling between Nazi Germany and Poland immediately preceding and leading up to the invasion of Poland by the armed forces of Germany.
140. Tell what you know about the diplomatic handling leading up to the signing of the non-aggression Pact of 23 August 1939 between Germany and the U.S.S.R.
141. Give any information you have indicating that when the Nazi leaders entered into the Non-Aggression Pact of 23 August 1939 they did not intend to comply with the obligations of that Pact but in fact intended to attack the U.S.S.R. at some favorable opportunity.
142. Was any ultimatum sent or any declaration of war sent or any notice given to Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg prior to their invasion by German armed forces on 10 May 1940?
143. Was any ultimatum sent or any declaration of War sent or any notice given to Yugoslavia or Greece prior to their invasion by German Armed Forces on 6 April 1941?
144. Tell what you know of events leading up to and culminating in the Nazi attack on the U.S.S.R. on 22 June 1941, including in full any discussions you had with von Ribbentrop or you heard him have with any of the leading Nazis or with anyone else about these events.
145. Was any ultimatum sent or any declaration of war sent or any notice given to Denmark or Norway prior to their invasion by German Armed Forces on 9 April 1940?



146. At this time and since June 1940 I believe you were Assistant Chief of the Political Section of the Foreign Office, which included all countries, and that you were also Gesandter (Envoy) 1st Class, is that right?
147. Tell what you know about the events and negotiations leading up to and including the signing at Berlin on 27 September 1940 of the German-Italian-Japanese ten-year military economic alliance, and particularly give the details of the part played by von Ribbentrop in the making of of that alliance.
148. Tell what you know about any Nazi efforts or negotiations to incite Japan to attack the United States and especially give the details of the part played by von Ribbentrop in such efforts or negotiations.