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BIOGRAPHICAL REPORTS

RESTRICTED

On Region: Yl; Jla

On Occupation: 6 A, 6 B, 6C, 25, 25 F, 25H, 28, 29

Political Attitude: 14, 30

Name: SCHOELLER, Phillip von

Nationality: Austrian

Region: Vienna XIX, Kobenzlstrasse 33 (Office: Vienna II, Wildpretmarkt 10).

Positions: Partner of Bankhaus Schoeller & Co., Vienna, Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) Schoeller-Bleckmann Stahlwerke AG, Vienna, Member of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat)
Creditanstalt Bankverein, Vienna,
Donau-Chemie AG, Vienna,
Alpen-Elektrowerke AG, Vienna,
Vöslauer Kammgarnfabrik, Bad Vöslau,
Vereinigte Industrieunternehmungen AG (Viag), Berlin
Head of Gauwirtschaftskammer (Gau Economic Chamber), Vienna,
Head of Bezirksgruppe Ostmark der Wirtschaftsgruppe Eisenschaffende Industrie (Regional Group Austria of the Economic Group Iron Producing Industry),
Member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry),
Member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Deutsche Reichsbank.

Birth date: 4 January 1892.

Religion: Catholic.

Family History: Subject belongs to the old Viennese banker's family, von Schoeller. He is married and has four children. One son, Reitger was killed in action in World War II.

Education: According to an interview source, von Schoeller attended gymnasium and subsequently the Technische Hochschule (institute of Technology) in Vienna, graduating as an engineer. 1/

Work and Political History: Phillip von Schoeller, one of the foremost Austrian profiteers from the Nazi regime, was (before 1938 already), head of Bankhus Schoeller & Co., Vienna, which acted mainly as a banking house for the extensive industrial enterprises of the von Schoeller family, particularly in the Steel, sugar and flour trade. The Schoeller-Bleckmann Stahlwerke AG, Vienna, is one of Austria's leading steel works. As of 1941-1942, Schoeller was Chairman of the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) in this Company.

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Since about 1934 Schoeller was in close contact with the Nazi party, and during the Schuschnigg regime belonged to the circle of Guido Schmidt (q.v.). He strongly supported the Anschluss policy and was a member of the Deutscher Club under the Chairmanship of Guido Schmidt's. One source reports that in 1937 Schoeller secretly joined the NSDAP and signed the Preponententenliste (list of sponsors) of the Deutsch Sozialer Volksbund, a camonflaged Nazi organization. 5/

After the annexation of Austria, Schoeller acquired control over many leading enterprises formerly in Jewish hands or controlled by the Austrian government and subsequently taken over the Reich government or by German firms enjoying the favor of the Nazi regime. He became one of seven members representing Austrian industry on the Board of Directors (Aufsichtsrat) of Austria's largest bank, the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, after the Deutsche Bank (Germany's largest bank) had acquired the majority participation from VIAG. The Reich holding company, had assumed control over the Creditanstalt Bankverein in 1938, formerly held by the Austrian State and Jewish Shareholders (Rothschilds, etc.).

Other enterprises of which he became a member of the Board of Directors after the occupation of Austria, include the following:

Wiener Allianz Versicherungs AG, Vienna, (successor to the Phoenix, once Austria's leading insurance firm); in which the Allianz Versicherungs AG, Berlin, acquired a participation after the annexation of Austria,

Alpen Elektrowerke AG, Vienna, organized by Göring compnsing a considerable number of Austrian electric power plants and officially described as an agent of the Four Year Plan. The stock was held by VIAG, the Reich holding company. Only two Austrians were appointed members of the Board;

Donau Chemie AG, (until 1939 Pulverfabrik Skoda Werke Wetzler AG), controlled by I. G. Farben;

AG der Vöslauer Kammgarnfabrik Bad Vöslau, one of the largest Central European textile firms which Schoeller acquired from its Jewish owners jointly with the Munich banking firm Merck, Finck and Co., Austria Tabak Werke AG, formerly the Oesterreichische Tabak Regie, the Austrian monopoly of tobacco trade and manufacture. The Reich government holds practically the entire stock of Austria Tabakwerke AG.

Vereinigte Industrie Unternehmungen AG (VIAG), the Reich holding company, controlling numerous industrial undertakings. Schoeller acquired a controlling interest in Kontropa, a large paper trust, formerly belonging to Bunzl and Biach, which was organized by the Nazis.

The list of Schoeller's business connections as of 1941/1942, further includes the following firms:

Lapp-Finze Eisenwarenfabriken AG, Kalsdorf, a subsidiary of Schöller Bleckmann Stahlwerke AG (see above),

Erzhütte AG, Vienna, a small iron mill,

Gegenseitiger Versicherungsverein für Montanbetriebe, Vienna, (Mutual Mining Insurance Association),

Bergmann Elektrizitätswerke AG, Berlin (electric power),

Helmholtz Gesellschaft, Düsseldorf,

Julius Meinl AG, one of the largest coffee, tea and grocery chains,

Brauerei Schwechat AG, Vienna, the leading Austrian brewery firm,

Leipnik Lundenburger Zuckerfabriken AG, Breclav, Czechoslovakia sugar companies, formerly in Jewish hands,

AG der Petöhazer und Gross Zinkendorfer Zuckerfabriken, Petöhaza,

Schoeller also exercised considerable influence over Austrian and German industry, through a number of positions he held in the Nazi administration of German business. He shared in the control over the Austrian Steel industry in his capacity of head of the Bezirksgruppe Ostmark der Wirtschaftsgruppe Eisenschaffende Industrie (Regional Group Austria of the Economic Group Iron Producing Industry), which forms part of the corporative organization of German business established by the Nazis in 1934. He was, furthermore, a member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the

Wirtschaftsgruppe Eisenschaffende Industrie (Economic Group Iron Producing Industry) for the whole Reich, and of the Reichsgruppe Industrie (National Group Industry), the most important of the seven National Groups which exercised organizational control over all German industry.

Schoeller was a member of the Advisory Board of the Industrie und Handelskammer, Vienna (Chamber of Industry and Commerce) from 1938 (?) until it was merged into the Gau Economic Chamber and of the Industrieabteilung (Department for Industry) of the Wirtschaftskammer (Economic Chamber), Vienna. When the Gauwirtschaftskammer (Gau Economic Chamber), Vienna, which exercised control over all business in its district except war plants proper, was established in 1943, Schoeller was appointed President. 2/ In 1944 he was appointed to the Arbeibkreis für Aussenwirtschafts fragen (working committee for problems of Foreign Trade) organized by Reich Minister of Economics, Funk. 6/

Schoeller was a member of the Advisory Board of the Deutsche Reichsbank, and a member of its Bezirksausschuss Ostmark (Regional Board for Austria). He was a member also of the Reichsarbeitskammer.

Schoeller received the title of Wehrwirtschaftsführer, from the Nazis, which is granted only to keymen in the German war economy who are in excellent standing with the Nazi Party.

Summary: By virtue of his influence over Austrian and German industry as partner of Bankhaus Schoeller & Co., Chairman of the Board of Directors of Schoeller-Bleckmann Stahlwerke AG, as member of the Board of Directors of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Alpen Elektrowerke, Donau Chemie AG, Austria Tabakwerke AG, VIAG, etc., as well as through his position as head of the Regional Group Austria of the Economic Group Iron Producing Industry, as head of the Gau Economic Chamber Vienna and member of the Advisory Board of the National Group Industry, etc., Schöller had an active part in determining and executing Nazi economic policies and specifically in the Nazification of Austrian business and the extension of German influence in the Barkans.

1/: OSS, BR, FU # 2107, 8 February 1944.

A. 10020: Viennese banker, personal acquaintance of subject.

B. 2116: business acquaintance.

C. FU-X: Interviewer's own information.

D. OSS, Source S, 8 February 1944.

2/: Neues Wiener Tagblatt, 19 June 1943.

3/: Wer Leitet, 1941-1942.

4/: Compass, Handbook of Austrian corporations, 1942.

5/: OSS, Source S, 15 March 1945.

6/: Deutscher Handelsdienst, 23 March 1944.

This record is a summary of such intelligence (From one or more sources as indicated) as was available at the time of preparation. It may consequently be subject to amendment by additional or more recent intelligence. Index numbers and letters are solely for indexing statements in the report.

7 May 1945