

THE SD (SICHERHEITSDIENST)

The SD (Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsfuehrers SS, or Security Service of the Reichsfuehrer SS) was the intelligence and espionage system used by the conspirators, in conjunction with executive agencies such as the Gestapo, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining totalitarian domination over Germany and occupied territories. It was established in 1932 by order of the Reichsfuehrer SS, Heinrich Himmler, as a special intelligence section of the SS, composed of SS men of unquestioned loyalty to the Party. In June 1934, by order of Hitler, all other intelligence agencies in the NSDAP were dissolved and their members were transferred to the SD, which then became the exclusive political intelligence and information service of the NSDAP. In June 1936 the head of the SD, Reinhard Heydrich, was appointed Chief of the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police), thus uniting the SD under the same command with the Gestapo and the Reich criminal police. By decree of the defendant Frick, Reich Minister of the Interior, in November 1938, the SD was declared to be an intelligence agency serving both the Party and the State and was ordered to collaborate with the Sicherheitspolizei and to keep the latter constantly informed on matters of police and security interest. In September 1939, the SD was combined with the criminal police and the Gestapo in the newly-created RSHA, the Reichsicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Head Office) under Himmler as Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German Police. Personnel of the SD was assigned to Amt III of RSHA, the internal intelligence section, and to Amt VI, the espionage and sabotage section for foreign countries.

The primary function of the SD was to collect, and to furnish to the Gestapo and to officials of the SS, the Party and the State, information, data and guidance necessary to detect, suppress and eliminate all tendencies, groups, organizations and individuals, both in Germany and in occupied territories, deemed to be hostile or potentially hostile to the Nazi regime. It consisted of a force of regularly employed personnel, selected from members of the SS on the basis of absolute loyalty to Nazi aims, which supervised and coordinated the work of thousands of part-time agents and informers. Through this espionage system the SD kept constant check on political, cultural, religious, educational, economic, and all other spheres of German life, including the activities and loyalties of State and Party officials and of the personnel of the criminal police and Gestapo. It operated in collaboration with the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police), supplying the material on the basis of which the Gestapo and criminal police acted and guiding and participating in such actions. In occupied territories it functioned with the Sicherheitspolizei and units of the SS as part of a unified police force under SS command serving as a principal instrument of the Nazi conspirators in controlling and exploiting such territories. It participated in the planning and carrying out of Nazi policies to resettle occupied territories, to evacuate the inhabitants of such territories and to annihilate inhabitants not of "German blood."

In the performance of its functions, and in collaboration with the Gestapo, the criminal police and with other agencies, departments

and organizations, it is responsible for planning, assisting in and executing repressive and terroristic measures in Germany and in occupied territories, including suppression of free public expression, imprisonment without judicial process, torture, persecution of racial minorities, mistreatment and execution of prisoners of war, murder, and deportation, enslavement and extermination of inhabitants of occupied territories.