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Defendant Franz von Papen
(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

Von Papen was one of the outstanding members of the right wing of the German Catholic Center Party. After a series of intrigues against the government of Chancellor Bruening, he succeeded in having himself appointed Reich Chancellor in June 1932. He then attempted to bring the Nazis into his government, but failed because the Nazi leadership was not satisfied with the representation offered to them by the defendant. The defendant's aim, according to his many statements, was to establish in Germany an authoritarian government. To achieve this he engineered, on 20 July 1932, a coup d'etat against the Prussian government, then composed of Social Democrats, Democrats and members of his own party, the Catholic Center Party. He deposed this government by military force and appointed himself Reich Commissioner of Prussia. He was also active in restricting civil liberties in Prussia, thus preparing the way for the Nazi regime.

Unable to induce Nazi cooperation and incapable of finding parliamentary support elsewhere, the defendant's government was overthrown by General von Schleicher.

To revenge his defeat, the defendant then set out to reconcile Hitler and President Hindenburg and won over for this project the assistance of the defendant Ribbentrop and of Baron Kurt von Schroeder, owner of the Cologne banking firm, J. H. Stein. In a series of negotiations, the defendant succeeded in convincing President Hindenburg that the regime of General Schleicher was in reality a "bolshevik" government and that protection of the vested interests of the Junkers from the impending attack on them by the Reichstag made it imperative for the President to

call Hitler as Reich Chancellor. The late president relying heavily on the advice of a clique in which the defendant, the late president's son, Dr. Weissner and Dr. Lammers figured predominantly, acceded to the defendant's advice.

On 30 January 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor and the defendant Vice Chancellor. The defendant's contribution to the Nazi cause was that he, more than any other person, made possible the seizure of power by Hitler. By his influence among German industrialists and bankers, high diplomatic officials, the defendant was instrumental in securing the support of these groups for the new government. During his tenure of office as Vice Chancellor, the defendant bears responsibility for the many basic Nazi laws and Nazi policies, inaugurated between 30 January 1933 and November 1933.

After his resignation from the Vice Chancellery, the defendant placed his services at the disposal of Nazi foreign policy. He negotiated the Concordat with the Vatican on 8 July 1933. He secured thereby the support of the Catholic hierarchy, in spite of the fact that his closest collaborators, Jung and Boss, were killed in the Blood Purge of 30 June 1934 on orders of Hitler and the defendant Goering.

He acted as Plenipotentiary for the Saar and used his standing as an outstanding Catholic layman to induce the overwhelming Catholic population of the Saar to vote for Nazi Germany. Between 1934 and 1938, as German Ambassador in Vienna, he participated in planning the conquest of Austria and operated the Fifth Column there. For these services he was awarded the Golden

Party Badge and admitted into the Nazi Party.

On 18 April 1939, he was appointed Ambassador to Ambassador to Turkey. He held this position until August 1944, when Turkey broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. For the valuable services he rendered to Germany in Turkey, often in the face of insuperable opposition, he was summoned to Hitler's headquarters on his return in August of 1944 and publicly decorated by the Fuehrer with the Knight's Cross to the War Merit Cross with Swords^{1/}

^{1/} Deutsches Nachrichtenbuero, 15 August 1944, quoted from Ford's biography.