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Defendant FRITZ SAUCKEL

(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

62,03

The defendant, Fritz Sauckel, joined the Nazi Party's local predecessor, the Lower Franconian Schutz-und Trutzbund, in 1919. He rose rapidly in the Nazi Party and became Gauleiter of Thuringia in 1927, a position which he held until the collapse of Nazi Germany. As a member of the Thuringian diet, he became chairman of the Nazi parliamentary group and invited the defendant Frick to become Thuringian Minister. Thuringia, under the defendant's leadership, became the spearhead of Nazism in the Reich. In 1932 the defendant succeeded in establishing in Thuringia the first wholly Nazi government in the Reich.

After Hitler's accession to power, the defendant undertook the aryanization of Thuringia. He wrested control of the Suhler Waffenwerke, the only gun factory of Germany under the terms of the Versailles Treaty, from the Jewish family Simson. After the incorporation of Austria he added to it among others the Hirtenberg munitions factory. He built up the Wilhelm Gustloff Stiftung, a party business combine of which the defendant was made chief (Stiftungsfuehrer) by Hitler on 10 September 1936. This Nazi armament combine whose activities were kept secret was doubtless one of the firms engaging in the secret manufacture of armaments forbidden under the terms of the Versailles Treaty.

In 1933, the defendant was made member of the Reichstag, and in April 1933 he was also appointed Reichsstatthalter (Reich Governor) for Thuringia. According to the Reich Governor law of 30 January 1935 his task was to see that the policy laid down by the Nazi Government was executed in Thuringia. The defendant thus

supervised and controlled the Thuringian Land government under the Nazi Prime Minister Willy Marschler. After the outbreak of the war, the defendant was made Reich Defense Commissar (Reichsverteidigungskommissar) operating under the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich. As such, he controlled Thuringia's war potential. With the increasing nazification of the German administration, the defendant's power in his Gau grew continually. He became Gau Housing Commissar and was given considerable influence over the Gau Economic Chamber in April 1942.

A Hitler edict of 21 March 1942^{1/} made the defendant Commissioner General for Labor Allocation (Generalbevollmächtigter fuer den Arbeitseinsatz) under the Four Year Plan. This edict vested in the defendant supreme power for the allocation of labor "including recruited foreign workers and war prisoners" and authorized him "to mobilize still unused labor resources in the Greater German Reich, including the Protectorate, the General Government, and the occupied territories."

The defendant Goering, by decree of 15 May 1942^{2/} gave the defendant Sauckel all powers previously vested in the Reich Ministry of Labor. The defendant took over the Main Departments III (Labor Law, Wage Policy, etc.) and VI (European Office for Labor Allocations) from the Labor Ministry, brought the Reich Trustees of Labor under his control and made the Gauleiter his labor allocation deputies so that in Thuringia the defendant was also in charge of the regional execution of his own policy.

^{1/} R G Bl I, p. 179
^{2/} R G Bl. I, p. 347

For occupied territories, the defendant created Labor Allocation Staffs (Arbeitseinsatzstaeb^{3/}e) which were uniforms, which were in charge of supplying foreign labor to Germany and which employed the defendant's agents appointed ad hoc. The defendant's own statements clearly show that his authority in recruiting foreign laborers abroad was undisputed. "Manpower and wages issues in the Greater Reich and in all occupied territories," he said, "are the exclusive responsibility of the Commissioner General and of his organization." While his agents were to respect the German territorial authorities in occupied territories, they are to insist upon their independent authority in the field of labor, because of the vital task with which they are charged, a task which was defined as "the unified direction of manpower in the European countries protected by Germany."^{4/}

The defendant, who continued to exercise his powers through his subordinates, admittedly travelled into many parts of occupied Europe in order to induce the German regional authorities (military, civilian and party) to speed up the supply of foreign labor.

The defendant, therefore, was not only responsible for the forcible removal of foreign civilians to Germany, but was also responsible for the treatment of foreign laborers inside Germany. Until 2 June 1943, this authority was divided between a number of agencies and those private businessmen who employed foreign laborers. On that date, the defendant reached an agreement with the defendant ^{5/}Ley whereby he entrusted to Ley's Labor Front the care for all foreign laborers inside the German Reich and left the operation of the

^{3/} See ARBEITSEINSATZ UND ARBEITSLOSENHILFE, February 1943, p. 17

^{4/} Secret Instructions since 31 August 1943 printed in R&A 3113.5 p.25

^{5/} Reichsarbeitsblatt, part I, p. 588

camps to the German Labor Front. The defendant, nevertheless, retained in this agreement a full share of this supervision which was exercised by the 42 Gaulciter as his Gau Labor Supply Deputies. He also established jointly with the defendant LEY a Central Inspectorate for the Supervision of Foreign Labor.

Until 2 September 1943 the defendant was solely responsible for the wages and living conditions of foreign laborers in Germany. On that date ^{6/} he was forced to relinquish part of his authority to the defendant Speer and to the latter's Reich Labor Supply Engineer organization which was set up to extract the maximum of productivity from the laborers both foreign and Germany.

The defendant Sauckel is thus guilty of:

1. Assisting in the overthrow of the Weimar Republic;
2. Participating in the prosecution of the Jews in Germany;
3. Committing crimes against the articles of war and against humanity.

He was honored by the two criminal organizations, the SS and the SA, by being made Obergruppenfuehrer in both organizations.

^{6/} Decree of 2 September 1943, R G Bl I, p. 529