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Defendant MARTIN BORMANN

(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

BORMANN attained his position as one of the four most important figures in Germany before the collapse of the Nazi system. As Deputy of the Fuhrer for Party Affairs, he was second in command of Party and Civil administration for all Germany, and as such, was personally responsible for the functions delegated to him by the Fuhrer. In addition he held the rank of SS-General (SS-Obergruppenfuhrer) from 21 August 1940<sup>1/</sup> and SA-General (SA-Obergruppenfuhrer).

The defendant engaged almost continually in illegal political activities against the German Republican government from the time he was demobilized from the Army in February 1919<sup>2/</sup> until the Nazi seizure of power, 30 January 1933. He served with the Freikorps Erhardt against the Bolsheviks along the Latvian border in 1919<sup>3/</sup>. In 1920, he became business manager for a large estate in Mecklenburg, and used this position to camouflage his activities with the Rossbach Brigade<sup>2/</sup>, one of the most active and violent of the Freikorps. As a high ranking officer (Abschnittsleiter) of this illegal organization he was specifically implicated in the murder of an alleged communist, arraigned before the Leipzig State Court on 12 March 1924 <sup>4/</sup> and sentenced to a year's imprisonment. After serving the sentence he joined another illegal military organization the Frontbann. Later in 1925 he joined the National Socialist Party.

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1/ Das Archiv, Verlagsanstalt Otto Stollberg, Berlin No.76, July 1940, p. 399.

2/ Der Grossdeutsche Reichstag, 1938, pp. 167-168.

3/ OSS, Br Report on defendant, 28 March 1944

4/ Die Neue Weltbuehne, Prag, Zurich, Paris, No.3, 20 January 1938, pp. 77-80.

Ever since 1927 the defendant has been a key party official. He served as Superintendent of the Nazi Press (Gaupresse-obmann) in Thuringia, 1927-1928, and after 1 April 1928, was regional leader (bezirksleiter) and party business manager. In these capacities he increased the circulation of Nazi propaganda and was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the first Nazi election victory in Thuringia in 1930<sup>5/</sup>. From 1928-1930, he was also on the Staff of the Supreme SA Command, taking part in planning the training, scope of operations and overall strategy of these illegal Nazi shock troops<sup>5/</sup>. He founded the Hilfskasse (Aid Fund) of the NSDAP, and as head of it until July of 1933<sup>5/</sup>, administered secret party funds used to finance the seizure of power by the Nazis.

The defendant was appointed Chief of Staff (Stabsleiter), to Hess, the Fuhrer's Deputy, in July 1943, and given the second highest title in the party organization, Reichsleiter. As Hess' Chief of Staff he aided in the creation of the smooth-functioning Party machinery, and in the extension of the party into every aspect of German life, and government. He thus fulfilled the Law to secure the unity of Party and State (Gesetz zur Sicherung der Einheit von Partei und Staat) of 1 December 1933, which declared that the Party was the pillar of the State and indissolubly bound to it. "He (Bormann) before all others, is the actual authority, which controls and sees to it that organizations and functionaries of the State and Party really embody the National Socialist will of the Fuhrer in their activities and operations."<sup>6/</sup>

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5/ Vordenträger im Dritten Reich (WDR), 1943

6/ Volksische Beobachter, North German edition, 14 April 1934, No.10

The formulation and administration of policy within the Party proper, as well as within most of the Party formations affiliated and supervised organizations came within the jurisdiction of the defendant's office. This included the appointment of Party officials, the issuance of Party directives to all regional levels, and the direction of special Party offices devoted to the administration of specific Party policies. The powers of the defendant's office included overseeing, in the name of the Party, all legislation issued by official government agencies. Thus, no major piece of legislation was issued without the cooperation of the defendant. By decree of 24 September 1935 Hess' office of Party Affairs was given power to approve or veto the appointment and promotion of all higher civil servants. The defendant, as Hess' Chief of Staff, was thus able to influence every important Civil Service appointment after that date.

In 1941, after the flight of Hess to England, the defendant assumed his title as Chief of the Party Chancellery and the additional one of Secretary of the Fuhrer. Thus he assumed absolute authority over Party affairs, and responsibility for the further encroachment of Party officials and jurisdiction in both military and civilian government. By a decree of 16 January 1942, participation of the Party in legislation and official appointments and promotions had to be undertaken exclusively by Bormann. Consequently, he took part in the drafting of all legislation and decrees issued by Reich authorities, and his assent was necessary for all State laws. All correspondence between State and Party authorities, unless within one G.U only, was subject to his scrutiny

As chief of the Party Chancellery, the defendant was appointed as member of the Ministerial Defense Council. In this capacity he participated in all major decisions about civil defense and the carrying out of the war economy. The power of the members of this Council was not limited by the necessity of the Fuhrer's approval for their legislation. The defendant shared further responsibility for official decrees and legislation as a member of the Cabinet since 1942. Through this body he maintained contact with all of the key Nazi leaders, and through them extended the basic policies of the Party into every department of the Government.

In 1943 the defendant undertook the organization and administration of the Volkssturm (Peoples Militia) for the protection of Germany proper. He was responsible for its training, recruitment and equipment, and for the indoctrination of its members, with illegal methods of warfare.