

62.03

E

Defendant Albert Speer

(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

A. Speer was personally acquainted with Hitler during his student days; he joined the NSDAP in 1932 and soon became Hitler's favorite architect. Many of the pre-war constructions of public buildings were his work. He was appointed head of a section of the Propaganda Office of the NSDAP and held high positions in the "Strength Through Joy" (KDF) organization of the German Labor Front and in the Labor Front itself.

In 1937 Speer was appointed Inspector General for Building in the Reich Capital and charged with re-planning and rebuilding Berlin. He was also made Commissioner for Building on the Staff of the Fuehrer's Deputy and was awarded the Golden Badge of Honor of the NSDAP. In the Party organization he reached the rank of "Oberbefehlsleiter" in 1942. His pre-war activities make him share responsibility for the indoctrination of the German working class with Nazi ideas and for the propagandization of Nazi ideology in general.

B. After the outbreak of war, Speer was active in the building program connected with the air force armament program. He used for these purposes the building organization which he commanded as Commissioner for re-planning of Berlin, as well, as the construction squads (Baustab Speer) which he had organized in 1938. In addition, he employed the Transport Squad Speer, set up within the NS Motor Corps. The latter was used

Albert Speer  
(Neumann draft)

-2-

not only to implement Speer's construction projects but also to supply the armies in the field. In January 1942 the Defendant was named to reorganize German inland shipping; he set up the Transportation Fleet Speer to control and operate river barges and boats.

When Fritz Todt died early in 1942, Speer was appointed as his successor. Hitler was anxious to achieve an expansion of German armament production and assured the Defendant of his full support against the other leading men in control of German production. This privileged position of Speer's was reflected in his being appointed Commissioner General for Armament Tasks under the Four Year Plan; this newly established function gave the Defendant not only the wise authorities based on the Four Year Plan Act, but also the right to issue general directives to all other supreme commissioners in the Four Year Plan.<sup>1/</sup>

As successor to Todt in 1942 the Defendant also became Reich Minister of Armaments and Munitions, Commissioner General for the Regulation of Construction in the Four Year Plan, Inspector General of German Roads, Inspector General of Water and Power, head of the Organization Todt; and within the Party organization he was made Chief of the Main Office for Technical Matters, Chief of the NS League of German Engineers, and Delegate for Problems and Organization of Engineering (Technik) in

---

<sup>1/</sup> Speer's memorandum on labor control (SHAEF-G2 Report No. 17 of 13 July 1945)

Albert Speer  
(Neumann draft)

-3-

the Party Chancellery. He also became a member of the Reichstag.

By successive steps, the Defendant expanded his authorities further by:

(1) organizing committees and "rings" staffed by engineers and managers to control, under his direction, the manufacture of armament equipment and components, and eventually also civilian goods;

(2) taking over from the Supreme Command of German Armed Forces, the Armament Office, and its regional organization of Armament Inspectorates and Commands which supervised armament plants and organized, with the help of the Central Order Offices, armament production in occupied countries;

(3) establishing his authority over the Reichsstellen which directed the distribution of raw materials;

(4) establishing regional Armament Commissions whose chairmen, under the Defendant's orders, coordinated the activities of all regional control agencies;

(5) initiating the establishment of the Central Planning Board, a conference of three (later five) top officials (including Speer himself) which acted as supreme authority in matters of economic planning and use of economic resources;

(6) organizing the Planning Office in his ministry to act as administrative center for economic planning;

Albert Speer

(Neumann Draft)

-4-

(7) establishing his authority over all industrial production and using as executive agencies the Ministry of Economics and its affiliated organizations, including the Groups, cartels and industrial associations (Reichsvereinigungen). The Speer Ministry was renamed at that juncture "Ministry of Armaments and War Production".

(8) becoming member of the advisory Council of the German Railways. Speer set up a number of corporations to act as agents for his various organizations both in Germany and in foreign countries. Among them were the ROHSTOFFHANDELSGESELLSCHAFT, which purchased requisitioned industrial materials and machinery from the Army and transferred them to Germany, the Rüstungskontor, which directly and through affiliates financed construction of plants and of specific projects, and the Generatorkraft AG, with specific functions. In addition, various units of the Speer organization operated under code names; for example, Pimetex signified the Ministry of Armament's unit which engaged in black market operations in Belgium and France.

The numerous functions and titles held by the defendant gave him the following power:

(a) to plan and direct industrial production both in Germany and in German-occupied countries; this involved the allocation of raw materials, industrial facilities, and assignment of manpower;

Albert Speer  
(Neumann draft)

-5-

(b) to direct the exploitation of industrial facilities and power plants in occupied countries, the confiscation of plants, and the carrying away of machinery (chiefly by the Armament Commands);

(c) to direct all building and construction activities in Germany and occupied countries; this involved the use of labor, materials, and transportation facilities (chiefly by Organization Todt and, in occupied USSR, by the technical offices);

(d) to increase labor efficiency in German factories with the help of the Reich Labor Engineer and his subordinates (Arbeitseinsatzingenieure), who organized efficiency wages and directed the exploitation of foreign labor.

The defendant has the chief responsibility for the organization of German war production from 1942 on, and all German industrial production after 1943. He is responsible for all unlawful measures put into effect in Germany and in occupied countries by the agencies directed by him, in order to strengthen Germany's industrial potential and to secure labor, materials, and machinery for the war economy. He is responsible for the use of slave labor in Germany and the economic spoilation of occupied countries.