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Defendant JULIUS STREICHER

Streicher was a prominent member of the Nazi Party and one of the principle Nazi agitators against the Jews. He joined the Party in 1921, after having been a leading member of two early rightist factions, the Deutsche Sozialistische Partei (German Socialist Party) and the Deutsche Werkgemeinschaft (German Work Community). In Mein Kampf, Hitler extolls Streicher, one of the two men specifically mentioned by name, for having given up his previous position in order to serve under Hitler as the Nazi leader. After joining the Nazis, Streicher prevailed upon his followers to accompany him into the Party and soon thereafter, founded the Ortsgruppe (local group) of the NSDAP, which served as a connecting link between the Nazis in Munich and in Northern Germany.

The defendant took part in the Munich Putsch of 1923, and was imprisoned with Hitler in early 1924. After his release, he became a deputy in the Bayerischer Landtag (Bavarian Diet) and a Stadtrat (Town Councillor) in Nürnberg. In 1925, he became the highest Nazi official (Gauleiter) in Franconia, and in 1932 was elected to the Reichstag. After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Streicher also became (Vorsitzer der Nordischen Gesellschaft, Sektion Franken) Chairman of the Nordic Society, Franconian Section and SA Ortsgruppenführer.

The defendant's career as agitator against the Jews began in 1919. In 1922, he became publisher and editor-in-chief of Der Stürmer, an anti-Semitic weekly notorious for its violent and pornographic articles. Before 1933 Streicher was often imprisoned because of his weekly; on one occasion, an article prompted such widespread protest outside Germany that Der Stürmer was temporarily suppressed. Revelling in the title of "Jew-baiter No. 1," ^{1/} the defendant played the leading role in instigating and organizing the boycott against the Jews initiated in April 1933.

Throughout his career, he advocated violent anti-Semitic measures. In 1935, for example, he stated that "if ever war should come it must develop into a crusade against the eternal Jew." ^{2/} Similarly in 1937, he said in a speech delivered in Nürnberg: "Victory will only be fully and finally achieved when the whole world has been rid of the Jews." ^{3/} As Gauleiter of Franconia, the defendant's record against the Jews was notorious. He took delight in maltreating Jewish prisoners and boasted of having entirely eliminated the Jews from a Franconian district of twenty-two thousand inhabitants. In May 1934, according to former US Ambassador William Dodd, Streicher outdid himself in the

^{1/} Frankische Tageszeitung, 17 August 1935.
^{2/} " " " 5 March 1935.
^{3/} " " " 5 September 1937.

persecution of the Jews and thereby frustrated efforts to improve US-German relations

Despite a close personal friendship with Hitler, Streicher was expelled from the Nazi Party in 1940. The chief charges against him were that he had disclosed confidential party information, that he had countermanded one of Hitler's orders, that he had submitted false evidence to the defendant Hess, that he had repeatedly slandered the defendant Goering, and that he had embezzled public funds. A death sentence pronounced by Hess and later commuted to house arrest through Hitler's personal intervention, and the defendant was obliged to spend the war years in retirement on his farm. Although he took no direct part in the actual prosecution of the war, the defendant bears a large responsibility for the rise to power of the Nazi Party and an even greater responsibility for the Nazi campaign against the Jews.