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OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
APO 403, US ARMY
INTERROGATION DIVISION

Nurnberg, Germany
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Brief of
Interrogation of Rudolf DIELS.

by
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The interrogation of DIELS, who is assigned to Colonel Brookhart, was confined to his knowledge of the general program of medical experiments which were undertaken in the concentration camps and the relation of such people as Dr Karl Brandt to this program. We discussed also the general nature of the euthanasia program.

Dr DIELS was acquainted only in a general way with medical experiments in concentration camps, some of which he had learned since the time of his internment by the British. He verified the statements of Prof. Gebhardt concerning the relatively inferior position of physicians under the Third Reich and the devotion of many of the party leaders to the practice of so-called natural medicine or faith healing. In his opinion the position of the SS as the supervising agency of concentration camps and the personality of Himmler rendered it relatively unlikely that detailed knowledge of the nature of the experiments would be known outside of these circles. He felt, however, that Dr. Karl Brandt, by reason of his position as Reich Commissar, must have been in a position to give orders to the Reichsartz, Dr. Grawitz, and, hence, bear part of the responsibility. Regrettably, Dr Diels' feeling in this respect is not based on anything concrete and without any other evidence it seems unlikely that Dr Brandt's statement on these matters in which he denies any such authority can be refuted.

Dr Diels had heard of the undercooling experiments and contributed information concerning a new experiment which took place at SACHSEN-HAUSEN during the last two years of the war which served both as a punitive action against the inmates and also was a test for ersatz leather for shoes. The victims of this experiment were obliged to run for a prescribed period of time over varying terrain, rocks, etc., with different kinds of leather to determine the leather's relative strength and durability.