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OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of : Erwin LAHOUSEN
By: Col. J. H. Amen, 18 September 1945, p.m. Nuremberg.

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. LAHOUSEN
 - a. Knowledge of and protests against Hitler's order of 18 October 1942, re killing of allied commandos (p.3-6)
 - b. Knowledge of execution of Canaris and General Oster (p.1-2)
 - c. Plot for murder of General Weygand (p.8-10).
 - d. Plot for murder of General Giraud (p.11-16).
2. JODL, KEITEL
 - a. Participation in Hitler's order of 18 October 1942.

EXECUTION OF ADMIRAL CANARIS

Lahousen stated the mutual relationship between him, KEITEL and JODL respectively was correct and without any animosity or antipathy (p.1). CANARIS and General OSTER were executed by "slow hanging" on 9 April 1935, both belonging to a circle who were fighting against Hitler and his intended aggressive war. The witness does not know where Canaris's diary may be, but Dr. DONANI who was in charge of the safekeeping of documents knew, but he allegedly was also executed (p.2).

KILLING OF BRITISH COMMANDOS

Lahousen declared himself to be familiar with an order of Hitler of 18 October 1942 with respect to killing of British commandos, which was discussed in the Department C.I.C. (p.3). Lahousen was personally involved in this matter insofar as regiment Brandenburg, which undertook actions similar to the British commandos, was attached to his section. On account of possible repercussions to them, the witness protested against this order of Hitler (p.4). Protests against this order were also launched from the office of Admiral BUERKNER, namely from the point of view of violating international law (p.5,6). JODL and KEITEL ought to know about Hitler's order of 18 October 1942, Canaris mentioned to Lahousen that this order was originated at

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least formulated by the leadership staff of the armed forces, and most likely he named JODL in connection with it. Canaris levelled a protest to KEITEL about this order but it was formally rejected (p.6). About the result of a second protest launched by the witness, he refers to KEITEL, BENTIVIGNY and BUERKNER, who ought to know about it.

WEYGAND AFFAIR

The order to kill General Weygand came from KEITEL, and went to CANARIS. The order did not say "execution", it was to be a secret murder. It was given orally by KEITEL to CANARIS (p.8). During one of the customary meetings of Canaris with his department heads, the latter pointed to Lahousen saying: "He" (Lahousen) "will be responsible for the execution of this order." BUERKNER, OSTER, BENTIVIGNY and PICKENBROCK were present and heard it (p.9). The reasons for these orders were, according to Canaris, to eliminate Weygand because he was distrusted and apparently working against Vichy. Lahousen refused to execute this order, reasoning to be a soldier and not a murderer. Canaris quieted him down, stating that this order will not be transmitted any further (p.9). Keitel was asking Canaris about the progress of executing his order, and Canaris always stalled the whole matter with the remark that: "It is being worked on." Keitel also asked the witness once and he answered in the same way as Canaris (p.10)

GIRAUD AFFAIR

About the planned murder of GIRAUD who, like Weygand, was feared to become a center of military resistance in case of an allied invasion, the procedure was about the same as in the case of Weygand. About 8 weeks before invasion, i.e. November 1942, Keitel gave the oral order to Canaris, who on his part informed Bentivigny, Buerkner, Pickenbrock and the witness about it. On that occasion, Pickenbrock remarked that Keitel has to be told that they are no murder organization (p.11). Canaris answered that he would take up the matter with Keitel and left the room. After a while he returned, with the words: "I succeeded in swaying Keitel (p.12). Keitel ordered me to contact Heydrich and to transfer this whole thing to Heydrich's S.D. and to have him executed." The witness stated it is also possible that Canaris meant Keitel ordered the transfer of the execution at Canaris's suggestion (p.12). About 3 weeks after, Keitel had given the order to Canaris regarding Giraud, he called up the witness in his private residence and the following telephone conversation took place:

Keitel: "What is happening about Gustav?" ('Gustav' was the code name which Keitel was using for the action to be taken against Giraud). "You know about that, don't you?"

My answer was: "Yes, I know about it". Keitel then said: "I want to know just what was done in this affair", so then the witness said: "I am sorry I cannot give you any information about that because the Admiral (Canaris) himself took charge of that." Then Keitel said: "You know that the others (S.D.) are supposed

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to do this thing," Then witness said: "Yes, I know that," and Keitel said: "Where is the Admiral?" Witness answered: "The Admiral is not here. He is in Paris." Then witness said: "Go at once", meaning witness (Lahousen), "to the Reichssicherungshauptamt (the main Security Office of the Reich) and see Mueller." Witness remarked that this Mueller is the same man he mentioned before and he was one of Himmler's men (p.13).

The witness, worried about the order Keitel gave him, flew to Paris to see Canaris. Canaris worked out a plan according to which the execution of Keitel's order should be prevented. Buerkner also knew of Canaris' plan. Lahousen flew with Canaris back to Berlin and the latter reported to Keitel that he had transmitted his order (Keitel's) to Heydrich at a conference in Prague, and Heydrich told him he would not use the ordinary S.D. men but special secret men to take care of Giraud (p.15,16).