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OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
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OPERATIONS SECTION
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Brief of
Interrogation of Edmund Glaise von Horstenau

by
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On 6 November 1945.

GLAISE von HORSTENAU was interrogated concerning his activities in Austria previous to the Anschluss as a member of the Schuschnigg Government.

There was little of importance that developed from his testimony until the month of March 1938 when he took a fourteen-day leave from his position in the Schuschnigg Cabinet and went to Stuttgart to make a speech before the Ausland Organization in that city. While there, he was contacted by Buerckel, who was later Gauleiter of Austria, and asked to go to Buerckel's home to be entertained. While in the home of Buerckel, he was informed by radio of the speech that was made by Chancellor Schuschnigg on the night of 9 March 1945 from Innsbruck, Austria. Buerckel, who was still with him, after hearing Chancellor Schuschnigg's speech, called the Reich Chancellor Hitler in Berlin and informed Hitler that Glaise Horstenau was with him, Buerckel, in Stuttgart. Hitler summoned Glaise Horstenau to Berlin and, while there, the following took place. On the morning of 9 March, at 2 AM, Glaise Horstenau was called to a conference with Hitler, Goebbels and Buerckel, and Hitler informed him that he would use force to solve the Austrian question if necessary. But, at the night session with Hitler, Glaise Horstenau was informed of nothing definite concerning what was to be done by Hitler against Austria but was informed that he would then go to Goering's house and remain there until notified that Hitler would again want him. He testifies that he was afraid to notify Chancellor Schuschnigg, who was then in Vienna, because he knew that the telephone line would be monitored. He therefore went to Goering's house and remained all night and until 8 PM the following evening when he was called to a conference with Hitler in the Reich Chancellery. Upon his arrival there, at 8 PM on the night of 10 March 1938, he noted lying on Hitler's desk a letter from Seyss-Inquart to Hitler concerning Seyss-Inquart's feeling toward the plebiscite proposed by Schuschnigg the night before in Innsbruck. While in Hitler's room, Glaise Horstenau saw Hitler and Globocnik come into the room arm-in-arm, and Glaise Horstenau later learned that Globocnik had only recently flown from Vienna to Berlin carrying the letter of Seyss-Inquart to Hitler. Immediately after 8 PM, Hitler summoned Glaise Horstenau to his private part of the Chancellery and asked that he return to Vienna carrying with him two documents: Document No. 1, a proposed speech that was to be delivered to Seyss-Inquart and that Seyss-Inquart

would the following night deliver that speech prepared by Hitler over the radio to the Austrian and German people; Document No. 2: a document which to Glaise Horstenau was never explained. Hitler then, in the presence of Glaise Horstenau, explained that he would use force to complete the Anschluss and, in the presence of Goering, explained to Glaise Horstenau just how he intended to do it. Glaise Horstenau alleges that he then, after leaving this conference, contacted a lady who lived in Germany and asked her to notify Chancellor Schuschnigg of Glaise Horstenau's presence in Berlin and the reason therefor.

He then attended a dinner given in Goering's house. He was handed a telegram which read: "Because of the unrest, murder and bloodshed on the streets of Vienna, I, Seyss-Inquart, Chancellor of Austria, request assistance from German troops". This telegram, which had been prepared by Goering or Hitler, was to be taken by Glaise Horstenau from Berlin to Vienna and delivered to Seyss-Inquart in order that he, Seyss-Inquart, could send it back to Berlin on the night of 11 March, 1938. (Note: This same telegram was actually sent by Seyss-Inquart on the night of 11 March 1938). However, the witness testified that he absolutely refused to carry any of the three documents above-named from Berlin to Vienna and went from Berlin to Vienna in a private plane but that he carried no documents with him. He knows, however, that on the same plane with him was a private courier who carried with him a bag containing therein these three messages to which I have above referred, and that this bag, upon being delivered in Vienna to either Tebber or directly to Seyss-Inquart, was found to contain the messages which Hitler and Goering had asked Glaise Horstenau to deliver to Vienna. That, upon his arrival, in Vienna, he was met by Seyss-Inquart and that he and Seyss-Inquart went to the Chancellor and that he told the Chancellor as follows: "I have just come from Berlin. Hitler is raging - You had better call off the plebecite or Hitler will invade". While Seyss-Inquart and Glaise Horstenau were talking with Chancellor Schuschnigg, Seyss-Inquart was called to the telephone and received a message that the plebecite would be called off or else Germany would invade. He then went back, joined Glaise Horstenau and the Chancellor, and informed him, the Chancellor, of the message which he, Seyss-Inquart, had just received by telephone. A counsel was called by the Chancellor of the Counsel of Ministers and they discussed the ultimatum that had been delivered to them through Seyss-Inquart for the cancelling of the proposed plebecite. At the counsel meeting, Glaise Horstenau testifies that he said nothing. That when the counsel meeting was over it was decided that the plebecite would be called off and that Seyss-Inquart notify Germany of that fact and, in the same conversation with Berlin, Seyss-Inquart was told by someone from Berlin that there was another ultimatum demanding the resignation of Schuschnigg as Federal Chancellor of Austria or else Germany would invade. Seyss-Inquart then came to Glaise Horstenau and said: "Come and go in with me. I must tell the Chancellor of another message that I have received" (referring to the demand for Schuschnigg's resignation). But Glaise Horstenau refused to go because he testifies that he told Seyss-Inquart: "This is a delicate matter, you must handle it yourself", and he did not go in with him.

The interrogation will continue.