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INTERROGATION  
OF THE EX-COMMANDER OF THE GERMAN SECURITY POLICE  
IN DENMARK, OTTO BOVENSIEPEN, IN THE CASTLE.  
KOPENHAGEN, 20 SEPTEMBER 1945.

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Questioned if the term the "ll of the Shellhouse" meant something to the accused, he declares, that this case was caused, in his opinion, by the unfortunate Press-notice. It so happened that the ll should be transported to Germany at the same time when the HORSEEROD-Camp was to be transferred to FROSLEV. After the ll had been shot and the Reich-Plenipotentiary had been informed, so that he could put a notice about it in the press, the latter decided to omit it because he feared the reaction which the transfer of the 1000 to 1500 prisoners might have on the mood of the population. Dr. Best was of the opinion that there would be trouble among the population and that the 1000-1500 men would be endangered. The Reich-Plenipotentiary believed that the notice could appear in the press after they had arrived in FROSLEV, safe and sound. The accused was against the false dementi. When it was to be published later on, the Reich-Plenipotentiary proposed to have this done in the form of an announcement of the German security police, probably in order to get as far away from the matter as possible, but the Higher SS-General Pancke interfered there and wanted to have it published by the Press-Service of the Higher Police General.

According to the information received by the accused concerning the shooting of the ll, they had tried to revolt on their way to Germany near ROSKILDE. Told that all ll had been killed by shots through the neck and that this did not look like attempted escape, the accused said that he couldn't give any explanations.

Questioned again about the directives concerning the tortures, the accused declares that the order had been received from the highest authority, possibly from Goering in his capacity as Chief of the Prussian Secret State Police, but certainly from Heydrich (they were probably worked out by Dr. Best).

The directives were:

- 1) Their purpose should be, to discover an organization directed against the Reich and against the State, and not to convict an individual.....for his own act.
- 2) They should be used only if the same result could not be obtained by any other means, and if particular speed was necessary in order to prevent the facts from being obscured otherwise.
- 3) The means were prescribed namely, flogging (strokes with a stick) with a limited number of strokes; the accused does not remember whether 10 or 20 strokes were the maximum.

4) A leading member of the Criminal Police (Kriminalkommissar, Kriminalrat) had to be present.

5) A doctor had to be present. The accused did not know whether this applied only to cases where it was necessary or to all cases.

This decree was several times modified in its smaller details and had to be brought to the attention of all the members of the Criminal Police from time to time.

With respect to the torture which he ordered for Professor MORGENS FOG, the accused declares, to have given the order to "Kriminalkommissar" SCHWEITZER, probably in the presence of Dr. Hoffmann. Asked for the kind of torture, the accused answered, that there was only one, namely, flogging. To what extent the torturing of Prof. Morgens Fog had actually been carried out had not been told to the accused. It had not been successful, anyway. As far as the accused knows, one wanted to know where Professor Morgens Fog had lived, so that his papers could be recovered.

With respect to the torturing of Lt. Col. TIEMROTH which had been ordered to Dr. Hoffmann by the accused, he states that they wanted to learn from Tiemroth about the organization which he led and who its members were. They got some information but the accused does not know if they were obtained through the torture. The accused does not know who actually inflicted the torture.

Questioned in which cases he received complaints about tortures, the accused states that he had 4 such cases, none of which were completely cleared up. At any rate, no result was communicated to him. In one case it was a professor, who had been allegedly severely mistreated during his arrest; this occurred in the Tiemroth case. Another case was submitted to Pancke during a visit at FROSLEV. The mistreatment in this case supposedly took place in Odense. The third case was reported through veterinary JENS MOLLER on behalf of a man who had served on the German side during World-War I and the 4th case was submitted by Pastor SCHMIDT, VODDER. At any rate, the accused charged Dr. Hoffmann with the investigation of 3 cases.

The accused states that Dr. Hoffmann directed the Secret State Police, in his capacity as Chief of Department IV, which means that he had to fight all organized resistance against the occupation forces.

The accused declares, that "Studienrat" WAESCHE was employed by the Security Service (Dept. III), which was directed by "Sturmbannführer" PAHL. That Department, however, had no executive powers.

The accused states further that Dr. ZECHENDER directed the German Criminal Police, and that he also represented him during his absence.

Departments I and II were administrative Departments. Department VI was the Foreign News Service and was directed by "Sturmbannführer" CARSTENS.

None of the Department leaders had anything to do with the Peter-Group, which received its orders from the accused himself. Should the

Peter-Group once have received order during the absence of the accused, those orders must have been issued by Dr. Zechender. The accused does not believe, however, that Zechender had issued orders. Dr. Hoffmann became the deputy of the accused, after the departure of Dr. Zechender towards the end of January 1945. He surely didn't issue any orders to the Peter-Group either, because the accused has not been absent from Denmark after that time.

The accused declares, with respect to the financial situation of the Security Police, that the expenditures were advanced by Dr. Best, whom the accused could ask for money. The accused does not know if he could ask for money without limits, but he always got what he asked for, naturally under the condition that he submitted an account to the Central Reich Security Office. He does not believe that Best had the duty to control (check) his claims.

The accused does not know the amounts of money he asked for, but they were high, particularly towards the end, because he had to pay during the last few weeks the salaries for three months to all the Danes in the department, and there were certainly as many Danes employed as Germans. The various payments are not known to the accused in detail, but he knows that Department IV had the highest and that Departments VI and III also had pretty high expenses. The Chiefs of the Departments must know who received the money. Informers were paid by Department IV. The accused adds that money was also paid to people who did not want to be known as employees of the Germans, even if they worked for them, as for instance TRETOW-LOOF of Department III. The Chief of the administration, BETHMANN, has the best knowledge of financial matters. He cannot know, however, who received money. Large sums have been paid by the accused as compensation for the attacks against the Shell-House and the Gestapo-Headquarters in Aarhus.

Questioned, who was responsible for the curfew, which was the cause for the general strike of July 1944, the accused replies, that it was exclusively the idea of the Reich-Plenipotentiary. The reason was that, after several considerable acts of sabotage had been committed, Best feared that Berlin might send an order to shoot 10 - 50 persons. In order to prevent such an order Best proposed to the accused and Pancke, to put into effect the curfew and to inform Berlin that the one or the other act of sabotage had been committed and that consequently those measures had immediately been carried out. Pancke agreed with Best but the accused was against it and said that such a curfew was impossible during the summertime, without extensive reactions. The accused was pleased though, when the strike broke out because he saw in it the opportunity to break the resistance movement, he wanted to achieve this by the closing of the various plants and vital establishments and by blocking the town simultaneously. He realized that an unprepared general strike in a city resulting in the closing of the plants during the hot summer days could not last long, and he believed that the population of Copenhagen would soon make the resistance movement responsible for the strike. He was sure that the Freedom Council and the politicians would, out of their sense of responsibility, give in and approach the German authorities in order to settle the affair, which indeed, was the case. Best and Pancke were afraid at the beginning of the strike but the accused explained to them that he wanted to close the works now and that he was ready to take the responsibility that nothing would happen to the

works and the other vital establishments. He wanted an effective blockade, which means, that the curfew should be enforced by all possible means, and that's why shooting occurred in the streets wherever the curfew was not respected. He had on the other hand no other plans than to break the strike and the resistance movement, because as already mentioned before, he expected with certainty that the city would only be able to hold out for a few days. He admits, however, that he didn't really succeed at this occasion to break either the city or the resistance movement. This was, however, a matter between him and Best, that means, Dr. Best revoked the German measures too soon and against the wish of the accused, and his relations with Dr. Best after the strike were not as good as before, as has already been mentioned before.

Questioned, if he hadn't planned to burn down parts of the city or to use similar means, the accused answers emphatically, no. It had been discussed at other occasions that the Germans should, whenever the population made fires in the streets, spread those fires to the neighboring houses, so that the people from Copenhagen who made those fires should see their houses burn down.

On the other hand it was intended to surround and arrest the people who gathered in the streets and to put them before a military court in order to have them condemned for participating in the strike, as strikes had been forbidden, according to a decree of the Reich-Plenipotentiary. Hundreds of persons were arrested, in order to be part before a military court. They declared, however, that they were willing to work but that they couldn't possibly do so because all the factories were closed, no electrical current was available, etc., and consequently they all had to be released. The first so-called anti-social (asocial) elements were picked from those arrested people. Pancke took no definite position to the whole development. He was not very active in those days. The whole action was in the hands of the Armed Forces, but the accused was the instigator of the whole affair.