The witness was asked "When did your planning of the Russian campaign begin?"
He replied: "In November and December of 1940. At that time I issued the first directives to the Army, Navy and Luftwaffe." (12) Hitler did not himself grant the SS the difference in equipment and clothing they were afforded. The head of the SS, Reichsführer Himmler, and the head of the Luftwaffe, Reichsmarshall Goering used their own influence to improve equipment and clothing of their troops..."(17)