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Interrogation of Fritsche by Russians

Interrogation took place on ~~XXXXXXXX~~ September 12, 1945

Q. You were arrested as one of those guilty of the war begun by Hitler in Europe. Do you admit that you are guilty of this?

A. Yes, I admit it. For a considerable time I was one of the directors of German propaganda and I took a direct part in the preparation of the second imperialistic war begun by Hitler.

I did all the propaganda work, starting from the personal orders and directives of the German Minister for Propaganda - Dr. Goebbels. I was Goebbels' real deputy, though Naumann held the post officially. In the absence of Goebbels and Naumann, I took charge of the whole work of the ministry.

Q. Tell the story of your propaganda activity in the period of preparation of the 2nd imperialistic war by the Hitlerite government.

A. (precis) The press campaign to reunite Austria with Germany.

Q. (precis) You understood that Goebbels' orders were criminal?

A. (precis) I did, but as a National Socialist I was only interested in Germany's interests.

Q. (precis) What was your activity at the time when Germany seized other countries?

A. (precis) I organized similar campaigns. I searched out old archive material compromising the governments of these countries, took it out of its context and used it to justify Germany's acts of aggression. Sometimes we invented plans to attack Germany, which we pretended to have captured in enemy countries.

Q. Now tell the story of how you organized anti-Soviet propaganda during Hitler's preparations to attack the Soviet Union.

A. (precis) The attack on the Soviet Union was prepared secretly so there was no propaganda activity before it.

Q. (precis) The Germans intended to make the Soviet Union a German colony?

A. Yes. (precis) I organized German propaganda in such a way as to inflame the hatred of the German people not only for the peoples of the USSR but for the peoples of all democratic countries. I considered it essential to carry on this propaganda, to prepare the German people psychologically for the struggle for world supremacy. I admit that in my capacity as leader of the German radio service I am guilty not only of organizing the lying propaganda against the Soviet Union. I tried to make the Anglo-Saxon Powers and the USSR fall out among themselves.

*ms*