

Goering

Thursday

Nov 22/45

35.02

PROPOSED QUESTIONS ON EC 416.

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING - 4 SEPTEMBER 1936.

1. You stated that "to-day's meeting is of greater importance than all previous meetings".

Why was that so?

2. You stated at the meeting "existing reserves will have to be touched for the purpose of carrying us over this difficulty until the goal ordered by the Fuehrer has been reached; in case of war they are not a reliable backing in any case".

What reserves were you talking about and what was there in the situation that required such drastic action as touching existing reserves?

3. Why were you opposed to Dr. Goerdker's memorandum suggesting that there be considerable limitation of armaments? What was the strength to which you were trying to bring the German Armed Forces? What was its strength in 1936? Against what nation did you deem it necessary to have even greater armaments?

4. You read at this meeting a memorandum of the Fuehrer to yourself and to Blomberg. State the general contents of the memorandum.

5. You state in the Minutes that the memorandum "starts from the basic thought that the show-down with Russia is inevitable"? What did the Fuehrer mean by that and what reasons did he give? Was it because he had resolved upon carrying forward his policy of expansion to the east?

6. You speak in the Minutes of "the risk in the field of foreign affairs which the Fuehrer runs so continuously".

What risk did you have in mind?

Did you feel that war was imminent at the time of this meeting?

Was not that the implication of your statement to the meeting "if war should break out to-morrow we would be forced to take measures from which we might possibly still shy away at the present moment. They are therefore to be taken".

7. You state in the Minutes "The Fuehrer is going to speak very soon to the industrial leaders and expose to them his fundamental thoughts".

What were these fundamental thoughts?

Did he ever express them to the industrial leaders?

What industrial leaders were there?

8. You state that the Fuehrer achieved "recognition on the part of France that we need a stronger Wehrmacht than France herself? When did the French say that?

9. Why did you say that "all measures have to be taken just as if we were actually in the stage of imminent danger of war"? Did you mean that Hitler had settled upon a policy which might make war come at any moment?

10. If such war broke out, would it not be because of the actions taken by Germany?