

Question

Nov 22

To: Gen. Donovan (Cont'd.)

W. H. Thompson and

13 Nov 45

Another directive of Feb. 17, 1933 (M.Biv. '33 p. 169) contained the following statement by Goering: "I believe it is not necessary to point out specifically that the police must avoid even the semblance of a hostile attitudeagainst national organizations (SA, SS and Steel Helmet) and nationalistic parties. To the contrary, I expect all police authorities to establish and maintain the most cordial relations with the named organizations, circles which contain the most important creative political forces. Moreover, any activity for national purposes and the nationalistic propoganda is to be assisted with all means..... on the other hand, I order to oppose the activities of state-hostile organizations most severely. You have to act against Communist terroristic assaults with all severity and if necessary make use of arms recklessly. Police officials who in execution of these duties make use of their hot weapons will be covered by me without regard to the consequences of their making use of such weapons. Who, however, fails in this because of misplaced leniency may foresee disciplinary action!" In the night of the Reichstag fire Goering had some 4,000 Communists arrested (Gritzbach p. 41). A directive of the following day, 28 Feb., (M.Biv. 1933 p. 233) ordered the Prussian authorities to apply the presidential emergency decree of the same date only against Communists and their allies. A Goering directive of 4 March 1933 (M. Biv. 33 p. 240) promised special rewards such as special promotions or money awards to such police officers who would excel through initiative in the fight against the opposition forces.

9. At the same time Goering made innumerable speeches in which he not only admitted the use of terror against political opponents, but openly incited to terroristic acts. It may suffice to refer to one of the speeches, that of Mar. 3, 1933, in which he said "I will give the sign to attack on the whole line. My measures will not be sicklied over by any legalistic doubts. Nor will they be sicklied over by bureaucratic hesitancy. Here it is not justice which I have to exercise, here I have only to annihilate and to destroy -- nothing else. I am not disturbed when certain critics sanctimoniously excite themselves over the measures which I have taken and cry aloud for more justice. I measure with two measures". (Hermann Goering, Reden und Aufsaezte, 3rd Edition, Munich, '39, p. 27 & 28.)

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