OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: ERNST KALTENBRUNNER AND GABOR VAJNA
By: Lt. Col. Brookhart, 15 October 1945, AM

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PERSONS, ORGANIZATION IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

1. KALTENBRUNNER
   a. Persecution of Jews/Hungary (pp 1-6, p 8)
   b. Police Function--Hungarian Police
      (1) Screening of Hungarian refugees in search for Jews (pp 1-5)
      (2) Creation of High Police and Gendarmerie Command (pp 1-5, pp 9-10)
      (3) Creation of Central Registration Office (pp 1-5, pp 9-10)
   c. Relationship with: Himmler (pp 4-6, 12, 14, 16); Berger (4-6, 12); Winkelmann (6, 12-15, 16); Eichmann (5-7, 13-14)

2. HIMMLER, BERGER
   a. Persecution of Jews--Hungary (pp 1-5)
   b. Police Function--Hungarian Police
      (1) Screening of Hungarian refugees in search for Jews (pp 1-5)
      (2) Creation of High Police and Gendarmerie Command (pp 1-5, pp 9-10)
      (3) Creation of Central Registration Office (pp 1-5, pp 9-10)

3. EICHMANN
   a. Persecution of Jews--Hungary
      (1) Jewish Problem in Hungary (pp 5-7; pp 10-11; p 17)

4. VAJNA
   a. Police Function--Hungarian Police
      (1) Screening of Hungarian refugees in search for Jews (pp 1-5)
      (2) Creation of High Police and Gendarmerie Command (pp 1-5, pp 9-10)
      (3) Creation of Central Registration Office (pp 1-5, pp 9-10)
   b. Relationship with: Himmler (pp 2-5, 10, 15); Berger (2-5, 10, 15); Winkelmann (10-11, 17); Ribbentrop (4); Eichmann (5, 10-11, 17); Veesenmeyer, (5, 11, 12)
Ernst Kaltenbrunner and Gábor Vajna, 15 Oct. 1945

PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN HUNGARY

1. Vajna stated that he had reported to the Berlin authorities, as well as their representatives in Budapest (i.e. Winkelmann), that he had received reports concerning the widespread mistreatment of the Jews. Vajna, in his conversations with Kaltenbrunner and other Berlin officials in December 1944 was assured that these reports were incorrect, that the Jews were well cared for and well fed, that as a result of Jewish labor German plane production had increased 40%. (pp7-8)

2. HUNGARIAN POLICE UNITS IN GERMANY

2. Kaltenbrunner's Meeting with Vajna, Hungarian Minister of Interior: Vajna stated that in December 1944 he had met with Himmler and Berger regarding the problem of Hungarian refugees fleeing before the Russians, that Himmler and Berger had instructed Vajna to return to Berlin and discuss "with Kaltenbrunner the details of the ...question..." including "...the creation of a high police and gendarmerie command... the creation of a central registration office..." and to weed out, by process of examination of credentials, all the Jews. (pp1-3) Vajna stated that he discusses these matters with Kaltenbrunner, -- the creation of the police districts, and the high police command, the institution of central registration. (pp4-5) Vajna stated that it was agreed that the matter of the Jews was to be handled through Oberstummbannführer Eichmann, then in Budapest, that Kaltenbrunner referred to Eichmann as "our man". (Kaltenbrunner, in response, vehemently denied that he had any authority over Eichmann) (pp 5-7)

3. Vajna stated that in his meeting with Kaltenbrunner it was proposed that five district commands should be formed made up of police personnel that had fled from Hungary, that a registration office be established and a card index system set up in Terezinéstat (?). (pp5-10) These questions had been discussed previously with Himmler but he had told Vajna that the details were to be worked out with Kaltenbrunner. It that time Kaltenbrunner stated that Winkelmann and Eichmann would be the logical representatives. (Eichmann was the Special Representative of the RSHA for dealing with the Jewish problem) (p 10)
Ernst Kaltenbrunner and Gabor Vajna, 15. Oct. 1945

4. In reply to Vajna's statement Kaltenbrunner stated that it was not possible that Vajna had discussed these matters with him—that such matters were for disposition by the Order Police, not the RSHA, the latter office having no planning department nor function. Kaltenbrunner denied that Vajna had discussed the Jewish question with him. Kaltenbrunner insisted that Eichmann was Himmler's not Kaltenbrunner's representative. (pp 11-14) Kaltenbrunner stated that Vajna would never have come to him to "work out the details"—this would have been handled through the Reich representative, Winkelnmann, in Budapest. Kaltenbrunner acknowledged that he "probably" told Vajna that he would give him "as much support as possible," but beyond that he made no commitments as to "plans." (p14)

5. In conclusion Vajna stated that he had never before realized that Kaltenbrunner was such an unimportant personage in the Reich organization, that he had always assumed that Kaltenbrunner was in the direct channel from Himmler to Winkelmann. (pp15-17)