Mr. von Thermann, interrogated on 6 and 7 June 1945 by Francis A. Mahoney, obviously tried to play down his role in propagation of Nazi ideas and German business in the Argentine. It is suggested to resume the interrogation on the basis of additional information about his activities which has come to our attention in the following way.

In the course of the investigations conducted by the Finance Division of the U. S. Group Control Council various documents showing the connection between the Nazi Party and the Latin American firms of I. G. Farben have been uncovered. Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt carried these documents to Washington and turned them over to the War Department, as per his memorandum addressed to General Hilldring on 2 July 1945. The documents referred to constitute attachment 11 of his memorandum, the most important document being exhibit A, namely a memorandum in which Dr. Frank-Fahle of I. G. Farben reported to Dr. Ilgner of the same firm about his discussion with von Thermann on 10 January 1941, who had then just arrived in Germany for a short official visit.

Among the matters referred to in Frank-Fahle's memorandum the most important are:

1. Von Thermann's statement that all German authorities and offices have the firm intention to resume with all their might the relations with Latin America at once after the conclusion of peace.

2. The discussion regarding questions of camouflage of German firms in Argentina and the perfect understanding among both parties that after a victorious end of the war the affairs of the South American countries will have to be taken into due consideration. (Note: the translation of this passage does not seem to reflect correctly the meaning of the German document).

3. Von Thermann's report about the reasons why Uruguay did not permit the construction of a British (naval) base in the La Plata.

4. His statement that relations between the Embassy and I. G. agencies are fully satisfactory.

5. The statement that von Thermann undertook to pass on personally to the Anilinas Alemanas S.A. a letter written by the I. G., that he had proposed to inform confidentially the management of the firm in Buenos Aires -- which posed as Argentine enterprise -- of the arrangement between I. G. and the Nazi Party regarding this camouflage.
Subject: Interrogation of Edmund von Thermann

These and other points of the memorandum show clearly that von Thermann played an important role in the propagation of German business and specifically in the organization of camouflage for German enterprises operating in Argentine. He might therefore be questioned with some insistence as to his and the Embassy's activities in regard to expansion of German firms in Argentine, what kind of assistance he had to give them, e.g., in their relations with the local authorities in regard to licenses and permits, taxation, property regulations, exchange restrictions, etc. There was among these the case of the Powder Works Villa Maria which the I. G. affiliate Köln-Rottweil intended to construct. It is known to us that Frank-Pohle established in 1937 close relations to the Argentine Armament Office in order to influence the setting up of the bid; during his conversation with von Thermann he referred to this project. (Information about this matter is contained in Mr. Ilgner's report about his travels in Latin America also in the hands of the War Department as per Mr. Schmidt's memorandum of 2 July 1945).

It would be interesting to hear from Mr. von Thermann from which German authority he received directives regarding activities on behalf of German business firms in Argentine. It was probably the Reich Ministry for Economics, perhaps Dr. Franz Kirchfeld, the head of the section III -- Foreign Exchange and Trade. He should be asked whether he knew Dr. Reinhardt in this section, who headed the Dienststelle A0 and was thus in charge of cooperation between the Ministry for Economics and the Auslandorganisation (Foreign Services) of the Nazi Party. It is also possible that Bohle the head of the Foreign Services of the Party issued such instructions to von Thermann, inasmuch as he was also State Secretary in the Foreign Office.

Von Thermann might also be asked about the I. G.-Vertrauensmänner who (according to Ilgner's report quoted above) advised the I. G. home office as to political and economic events in Latin America and cooperated closely with the Party, Chamber of Commerce, Embassy. He might also be asked to describe role and organization of the German Chamber of Commerce in Argentine.

Another document brought by Mr. Orvis Schmidt to this country is a diary of Dr. Kurt Weiss about his travels in Latin America in 1937 where he refers to a visit with von Thermann.

Von Thermann should be questioned as to whether German firms sold in 1940-41 merchandise for postwar delivery in Argentine.
Subject: Interrogation of Edmund von Thermann

Of the matters discussed during the first interrogation more details should be sought in regard to the functions of von Zauchen who served as Ribbentrop's representative in the Ukraine and the functions which von Thermann expected to hold in a similar position in the Caucasus. (p. 53 of report).

Further, about the report of the I. G. concerning their interests in Russia and the reasons why he was given a copy.

If confronted with our knowledge of his confidential relations with I. G. Farben von Thermann might become less reticent and disclose what he knows about German intentions in regard to postwar organization of business with South America and the role of I. G. Farben and other German firms in this connection.