

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Ley 41.02

Interrogation of ROBERT LEY
By: Major John J. Monigan, 2. October 1945, AM Nuremberg, Germany.

PERSONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

Ley, Mende, (2,4,12,13,18,19,20,21)
Gohds (3)
Sauckel (7,9,11,13,14,20,21)
Seyss-Inquart (8)
Frank (9)
Mussert (9)
Nationals Liason men under Gohds (3)
DAF-Social work (4-7)
Foreign workers' camp administration (4-7)
Labor representatives in German occupied countries (8)
Labor Ministry (Seldte later Sauckel) (9)
Visits, inspections, tours in labor districts, factories and camps (14)
Police inside factories (16) (17 top)
Health Department, DAF (17)
Workers camp-Mende (18,19)
DAF membership rates (19,20)
Wages (19,20)
Complaints commission DAF (20)
Food problem (20,21)
No obligation to join DAF (22)
Written Material on DAF and Adolf Hitler schools handed in earlier; 60 pages plus 3 documents, (22,23)

DAF

He was leader from 1939 until the end, DAF mission (see 60 pages by Ley): supervision of: work, professional education, housing, food and social problems.

Mende: Supervised camps, settlement of German and foreign workers there (p. 2-4).

Mr. Gohds worked under Mende in charge of 24 liasion men, who represented these nationals and visited camps to insure care and order.

Personnel for the administration of foreign worker's camps was furnished by factory owners or by DAF (p.4)

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Ley refers to "work written in Mondorf", containing information about DAF's social work; break-down in regard to labor organization within the factories (4,5,6), Betriebsfuehrer, Betriebsobmann, Zellenmann, Blockobmann, and confidential advisors-sub-division for health, housing, recreation and entertainment-outside of the other framework called Works Group. (p.6,7)

DAF was responsible for care, transportation of foreign workers within the limits of the Reich. (p.7)

Denied to have had representative or liaison in Sauckel's office in the occupied countries except in the Reich. (p.7)

State operators under Sauckel, Party operators under Ley within the Reich (top 8); as Seyss-Inquart had his own subordinate labor representative for Holland, so had each respective man in power in the occupied countries his own subordinate representative of labor. DAF supplied material, papers etc., but Ley claimed he had no "power of command over these people". (p.8)

"It was impossible to interfere in France, Belgium, Prague because of old schemes and old workers' unions", he claimed. He did not know how Quisling (p.9) handled it. Under Frank (p.9) in Poland there was a party similar to the framework "we had in Germany". Bussert (9), in Holland set-up a Dutch movement similar to the one in Germany. DAF advised, taught them and supplied advisors but Ley had no "power of command" over their actions. (p.9)

Sauckel's department reported arrival of foreign workers to DAF who took them over at the Reich's border. (p.10)

He mentioned Italian agreement for volunteering labor which was used for other countries too (the agreement). The Labor ministry under Seldte (p.11) was responsible for wages, settlement, etc.

When Sauckel took over, Ley's task of making agreements with foreign countries was finished. Sauckel was responsible on the outside, the State Labor office and the DAF on the inside. Later Sauckel (Bottom p.11) took also care of transportation, working clothes and settlement. But Ley claimed that Mendt knows all details and was in charge of them although he, Ley, cannot "decline any responsibility". Housing facilities were discussed. (p.12,13)

Ley claimed about Sauckel that he (S) was in favor of good treatment of foreign workers. He boasted further that they were fed and clothed better one-half year after their arrival. (p.13,14). Also that complaints, even among the Germans were "unavoidable". A commission to investigate and settle complaints (p.20) existed.

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German and foreign workers were mixed in the workrooms and Ley visited them to see whether they "fared well" or "felt well in the camps" (p.14)

Wages were determined by the State not by the DAF.

He explained workers' unions and employees' unions set-up. (p.15,16). Differences were straightened out up through all instances. If agreement could not be reached then the State Labor Office, or next, the Labor Law trustee-representative (under Sauckel) was consulted.

Ley claimed there was no State power or Police inside the factory. (p.16,17). DAF had health department that supervised factory physicians (employed by the factory). Brought diseases from 6-8 % down to 1½%. Foreign physicians took care of foreign workers. He claimed he never received any complaints. (p.17)

He explained Mende was in charge of camp on the Reich's border where workers were examined, qualified and waited for allocation. "Mende would know" by what personnel those camps were run. (p.18,19).

Wages paid were higher for workers: from the West because of higher standards in comparison to the East.

Contributions to the DAF, he said, were in accordance to their wages but "the employers paid a higher contribution than the laborer"- he believes everybody had to pay 1½%. (Details (19,20)).

The difference in feeding Eastern workers less than Germans and Western workers, he explains, "that we had not enough food but the food was far better than these people had at home." Claimed "Sauckel turned to Mende for advice" to solve food situation. (20,21)

Workers were, he said, at liberty to join the DAF or not. They had to if they wanted their interests represented. (22) Many who live privately did not belong to DAF "but the majority certainly was in it."

He spoke of material he handed to the interrogator concerning his work at the DAF and Adolf Hitler schools and was promised that he would hear about it.