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HEADQUARTERS
6850TH INTERNAL SECURITY DETACHMENT
INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

2 November 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Major General DONOVAN, Office, U. S. Chief of Counsel,
APO 403, U. S. Army.

Observations and impressions of the Prison Population concerning the incident of Dr. Robert Ley's death, reported by Lt Colonel RENE H. JUCHLI:

"It appears to be the unanimous concensus of opinion among the witnesses that no bereavement was indicated over the self-inflicted death of the late Dr. Ley. One, Schwarz, stated that the rather tragic death should have occurred fifteen years sooner. He was evaluated as a fantastic dreamer with his dreams as confused as his talks. Kesselring, Westphal, and Zolling also, simply, indicated their opinion by a motion of thumbs down.

"The women internees were more or less generally depressed by the news. The private secretary of the late Ley seemed not to be able to control her emotions, but the grief of bereavement seemed to be limited to that person. However, Major Kelley stated that he feels the reaction was two-fold and would fall into the two categories:

- (1) Of generalized sympathetic shock, regardless the dubious character of this male specimen of homo sapiens.
- (2) Female curiosity and concern of how this act would affect their former chiefs, such as Frank, Ribbentrop, and others.

"In the "C" Wing, the reaction was definitely not one of sympathy nor depression but rather an element of surprise. Nothing could be expected of him. His end was regarded to be in harmony with his inglorious ambitions and aims of self glorification.

"Goering was thoroughly disgusted, not surprised at the ways and means of self destruction, but at the possibility of gaining his end under the most rigid security measures. He admired his ingenuity but not his decision.

"Streicher had no use for him even as party member and was rather ashamed to be locked up with such a weakling even in the same prison. He voiced the opinion that he was thoroughly disgusted with his behavior as a prisoner and severely criticised his recanted on the Jews and the attempt to wiggle out of the responsibility of Anti-Semitism.

Frank felt better about the whole affair. Just as Hitler, Himmler, and Goebels, Ley failed to possess the moral courage of facing justice but left the rest behind, holding the bag. (Frank also had attempted suicide by cutting his wrists and neck but was saved for future reference).

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"Schirach said that the cowardly act was most unfair to the rest of the accused, who could not now clarify their status, without being able to ask some necessary questions face to face for his own defense at the approaching trial.

"Doenitz also mentioned that it was a weak and cowardly act, but expressed his surprise that anybody was able to accomplish self destruction under the prevalent measures of security. Said as did Goering, that such actions would not enter his mind as he was ready to answer for his actions as a Navy Officer.

"Schacht was of the opinion that this should have happened fifteen years ago and only regretted the delay of the incident. He also mentioned that he had no ideas for self destruction as he had nothing to fear from this Military Tribunal.

"Keitel was unmoved, disinterested, and silent about the whole incident!"

Rene H. Juchli

RENE H. JUCHLI
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