

Neurath 42.63

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of KONSTATIN VON NEURATH

4 October 1945, p.m., Nuremberg.

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

- I. VON NEURATH
 - a. Use of Auslands Organisation for propaganda purposes abroad (p.I-3).
 - b. Evasion of Treaty of Versailles (p.I2-I3,2I,22)
(I) Plan "Schulung" (p.I6).
 - c. Anschluss with Austria (p.I7-I8,I9,20)
 - d. Personal decoration by Hitler (p.2).
2. HITLER
 - a. Re-armament of Germany (p.3).
 - b. Evasion of Treaty of Versailles (p.2I,22).
 - c. Violation of Locarno Pact by occupation of Rhineland
(p.3-5,9,IO-II,I2-I3,I4-I5).
(I) Plan "Schulung" of von Blomberg (p.I6).
 - d. Anschluss with Austria (I9,20).
3. KEITEL, RIBBENTROP
 - a. Anschluss with Austria-Meeting of 9 Feb. with Schuschnigg (p.20)

AUSLANDS-ORGANISATION

Admits that he initiated the decree of February 3, 1938, on the registration of Germans living abroad, giving as a reason the existence of a German law according to which Germans lost citizenship after 10 years of uninterrupted absence from Germany. States that afterwards the A.O. used these registers for propaganda purposes (I-2). After some hesitation, admits he signed the decree placing the A.O. under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Office (2).

Bohle was appointed Secretary or Undersecretary of State in the Foreign Office, after Neurath's time (3).

Konstantin von Neurath, 4 October 1945 p.m.

OCCUPATION OF THE RHINELAND

Claims that the re-occupation of the Rhineland was caused solely by the Franco-Soviet pact. This pact was one reason why HITLER decided to re-arm (3). Re-occupation was the impression of the Foreign Office that the Franco-Soviet pact violated the Treaty of Locarno, and the signatories of the Locarno Pact were informed of the German position by a memorandum of 25 May, 1935 (4). Germany, "therefore, did not consider herself bound by the Locarno Pact". (9). Then the other signatories declared that entry into the Rhineland was a violation of the Locarno Pact (10). Hitler refused to submit this problem (whether the Franco-Soviet pact violated the Treaty of Locarno) to The Hague Court; he did not want to have anyone meddle in his decision (10-II).

Admits that in his conversation with British ambassador, Sir Eric Phipps, after Hitler's speech on May 21, 1935, he gave assurances to Sir Eric that the territorial provisions of the Versailles Treaty, including demilitarization of the Rhineland, were still considered to be in force (12-13).

Denies that the re-occupation was discussed in the German government previously because there was no threat or fear of collaboration of France and Russia (14-15). Denies knowledge of the Army's plan, dated May 2, 1935, prepared by von BLOMBERG, since plan was secret, and of the code name "Schulung" used for re-occupation (16). Knows of von BLOMBERG'S plan; says it was discussed by HITLER with the Minister of Defense, but that he never saw a copy of it (16). The re-occupation was purely military operation, not concerning the witness (16).

AUSTRIAN ANSCHLUSS

Witness admits the possibility of having said to Schuschnigg in Vienna that Germany would march if the Habsburgs were to be restored because "it was the view of HITLER" (17-18). Was always in favour of an economic treaty (customs union) with Austria; opposed an Anschluss (18). Admits that Nazi party activities spoiled matters in Austria (19). Denies attendance of the meeting between HITLER and SCHUSCHNIGG on February 9; says KEITEL and von RIBBENTROP did attend, but he was out of office (20).

Konstantin von Neurath, 4 October 1945 p.m.

PERSONAL DECORATION BY HITLER

Admits he was awarded the "Adlerorden" (the Eagle), March 1939. RIBBENTROP and he were the only Germans who received this decoration (21).

Admits that he made a "substantial contribution" towards releasing Germany from Versailles Treaty (21).

Witness admits that the re-occupation of Rhineland violated Versailles Treaty (22).