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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Franz von PAPAN

By: Mr. H. N. Howard (State Dept.), 24 October 1945, P.M. Nuremberg

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. Von PAPAN
 - a. Explanation of Turkish sovereignty over Straits (p. 3 - 5)
 - (1) Passage of German ships in 1944 (p.8)
 - b. Participation in German-Turkish Pact of 1941 (p.5 - 7)
2. RIBBENTROP
 - a. Negotiations with Russia for joining with Three Power Pact (p.2)

CONVENTION OF MONTREUX

Von Papen says he cannot indicate what the German attitude was towards the Convention of Montreux of 1936, he was not in any official position at that time and is not informed about it. Moreover, Germany had not been a member to that convention (p.1)

Germany's policy towards Turkey has always been friendly, thus if Turkey accepted that convention the Germans would have no objections (p.1).

He does not believe that the question of the Straits came up in Ribbentrop's negotiations with Moscow in August, 1939. But he, as an ambassador, was not informed about what happened in Moscow (p.2).

At the time of Molotov's visit to Berlin, in 1940, he was likewise not informed about the negotiations, but later Ribbentrop told him that one of the Russian conditions for joining the Three Power Pact was certain control of the Straits and changing the Montreux Convention. The Russians were opposed to the spirit of this convention and to Turkish sovereignty. This information was given to Papen by Ribbentrop when Hitler or Ribbentrop had declined to accept Molotov's conditions (p.2).

TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER STRAITS

Germany's general policy throughout the last century, similar to that of England, was that the Straits were to be in the possession of the Turkish government (p.3). The Turkish government was - in Papen's opinion - quite willing to confer about changing the Montreux Convention, giving the Russians more right, such as the passing through of warships, etc. (p.3).

