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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Joachim RIBBENTROP
By: Colonel H.A. Brundage, 29 August 1945 p.m. Nuremberg

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. RIBBENTROP
   a. German Foreign Policy
      (1) England (p.6-12)
      (2) Austria (p.19)
      (3) Sudetenland (p.20) (a) The VDA (pp.20-21)
      (4) Munich Conference (pp.22-23)
      (5) Hitler's August 1939 Speech at Obersalzberg (pp.40-46)
   b. The Jewish Question (pp.45-47)
Ribbentrop recounts events in German foreign politics beginning June 1935; visit of Simon and Eden in Berlin; Naval agreement in London; visit to France (1,2). He discusses his work and the contacts he established in England from 1930 on (4-5), and Hitler's and his ideas about relations between England and Germany (6,7,8,9,10,11,12); how these relations deteriorated (13,14,15,16) and finally led to war (17,18). He elaborates on the political aspects of the annexation of Austria, Memel (19) and of Sudetenland (20)—in the latter of which VDA (Vorsin fuer Deutschum im Ausland) had a hand (20,21)—and their culmination in the Munich conference (22,23). Ribbentrop maintains that he never had adequate liaison with military events (24,25,40,41) and continues in longwinded tirades along well-known Nazi ideologies (26,27,28).

Ribbentrop emphatically refuses to believe that Hitler ever made the notorious speech of 22 August 1939 at Berchtesgaden before a meeting of the Supreme Commanders and Commanding Generals of which he says he was never heard (29-40, 44,45,46). Ribbentrop talks on about "Lebensraum" (41,42) and about minority problems (43). He knew that by 1939 it was concentration camp for criticism (45) and he had a "frightful row" with Streicher in 1935 about the Jewish question (47).