OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY
INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Joachim von RIBBENTROP
By: Colonel Hi Ai Bründage 8 October 1945, p.m. Nuremberg

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. RIBBENTROP
   a. The Yugoslav - Axis Pact (p. 1-3)
   b. Occupation of Rhineland (p. 4-8)
   c. Resettlement Actions - Poland
   d. Police Measures in Denmark (p. 16-19)
   e. The Luther Incident (p. 20-21)
   f. "Rationalization" of Policy of Aggression (p. 21-42)
   g. Relations with the Vatican (p. 43-45)
   h. Attempts to Negotiate a Peace (p. 46-57)
   i. The French Occupation Costs (p. 51-52)
   j. The Belgian Gold Payment (p. 52-53)
   k. The arrest of Belgian Resistance Movement Members (p. 52-53)

2. HESS
   a. Characteristics and Position in Party (p. 47-49)

3. WEIDEMANN
   a. Status in the Party and Foreign Office (p. 55-56)

THE YUGOSLAV - AXIS PACT

Ribbentrop identified part of the contents of a newspaper clipping of 26 March 1941 (Exhibit A) (4), pertaining to a Yugoslav-Axis Pact (p.1). He does not remember having signed "German Guarantees" of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, contending that the integrity of Yugoslavia was accepted as fixed German policy without the necessity of incorporating such a provision in treaty form (p.3).

THE RHINELAND

He disclaims knowledge of a plan "Schulung" for the reoccupation of the Rhineland (p.4) but he was always in favor of this action which had been under discussion for a long time (p.8) and for which Hitler himself gave the final order in a quick decision (p.7). Ribbentrop later represented the German viewpoint in a speech composed by Hitler, to the League of Nations in London (p.8).
RIBBENTROP, 8 October 1945, p.m.

RESETTLEMENT ACTIONS

On the resettlement program in Poland, Ribbentrop claims to have had only superficial knowledge (p.10,11,12), but knows that "Germans were re-taking their farms" (p.13). However, he immediately veers away when it is attempted to pin him down (p.14,15).

SS ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK

Ribbentrop attributes the arrest, deportation, and imprisonment in concentration camps of 1,200 Danish policemen, on orders of SS Fuehrer Pancke in 1944 (p.15), to an "unhappy situation" (p.15), which developed out of inter-departmental friction between political, military and police administration (p.16). After considerable wrestling in 1942-1943, the police (SS) prevailed with their policy of reprisals (p.17) with Hitler's assent evident (p.18).

LUTHER

Upon Ribbentrop's breaking with Under Secretary of State, Luther; Hitler put Luther in a concentration camp and Ribbentrop has not heard from him since (p.20-21).

RATIONALIZATION OF GERMAN AGGRESSION

The ensuing debate, at times off the record (p.41), deals with historical, political, moral, and ethical aspects of German invasion of a dozen countries with whom non-aggression agreements were concluded, usually in immediate precendency to the attack. Although Ribbentrop has to concede that "the result, of course, is disastrous" (p.35), he maintains his general trend of furnishing alibis, come what may, for what he calls Hitler's measures in self-preservation (p.21-42).

THE VATICAN

Ribbentrop states that Hitler prohibited investigating and answering protests by the Vatican (p.43) in regard to atrocities committed in occupied territories (p.44-45).

GERMAN PEACE EFFORTS

Ribbentrop tells about his various, but futile peace-feelers with and without Hitler's consent; all the time (p.54,56,57) especially in 1942-1943 (p.46), and in 1945 (p.48,49,56).

RUDOLF HESS

He classified Hess as a figure of prime importance (p.47) although "a little extra-ordinary" (p.46) and possibly "not quite normal" (p.49). His remarks about Hitler's mental status are made off the record (p.49).
Ribbentrop, 8 October 1945, p.m.

HAWVEL

He describes Ambassador Hawvel as "my man with Hitler" and states that Hawvel knew Hitler since they were together in the Landsberg Prison in 1923 (p.50). Ribbentrop professed ignorance regarding Haushofer (p.51).

FRENCH OCCUPATION COSTS

Regarding his role in establishing the French occupation costs Ribbentrop brushed the question aside stating that he played a very insignificant role. His recollection of the Belgium gold payment was to the effect that it was the insignificant sum of 25 million dollars (p.51,52).

THE BELGIUM RESISTANCE

In regard to 2,000 Belgians, including leading politicians and important figures in the resistance movement, who were sent to German concentration camps (p.52), Ribbentrop thinks it "quite probable" that after they were arrested the lists were cleared through the Foreign Office under Abetz's responsibility, though the Foreign Office had "nothing to do with the action", of course (p.52).

FRITZ WIEDEMANN

About Wiedemann, Ribbentrop declares that as Adjutant to Hitler he was an important person for a while, but later fell in disfavor and was sent abroad as Consul General first to San Francisco and, after the notorious flag incident, to China (p.55,56).