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T R A N S L A T I O N  
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Statement made by Karl Herrmann Frank, former Secretary of State with the "Reichsprotector Boehman und Maehren" /Protector of the Reich for Bohemia and Moravia/, SS Gruppenfuehrer /translator's note: higher SS group leader equal to the rank of lieutenant general/ and Hoeherer Polizeifuehrer /higher police commander/, later Minister of State and SS Obergruppenfuehrer /translator's note: higher SS group leader equal to the rank of general/, at present in custody at Wiesbaden, made on 28 May 1945.

Investigating officer: Dr. Bohuslav Ečer, Czechoslovak representative on the United Nations Commission for Investigation of War Crimes.

Recorder: 2nd Major Dr. Fanderlik

Present: Lt. Col. J.C. Breckinridge, of Judge Advocate Section, 12th Army Group, War Crimes Branch.

Karl Herrmann Frank deposes:

I admit that I am Karl Herrmann Frank, former Secretary of State in Bohemia and Moravia, etc., born 24.1.1898 in Karlsbad, former member of the Czechoslovak Parliament.

I remember that on the day of the assassination of Heydrich, on 27.5.42 a proclamation was broadcast by the broadcasting stations of the Protectorate, promising a reward of 10 million Kronen for the seizure of the perpetrator. I remark that later on an additional ten millions was promised for the same purpose by the Government of the Protectorate.

I remember that this proclamation contained the following threat: Every person who gives shelter to the perpetrator or

assists him in any manner, or conceals before the authorities his knowledge of his identity or his whereabouts /translator's note: the perpetrator's/ shall be shot together with his whole family. This order concerning the shooting of the whole family originated, as far as I know, directly from the Fuehrer's Headquarters. In this proclamation various measures were ordered, which, in cases of this kind, were issued by the police.

I do not know who issued the order to broadcast this proclamation. I presume that this was ordered by the Security Police.

In addition to this broadcast proclamation, I issued on 27 May 1942 a proclamation, which I signed myself, and the contents of which in general correspond with those of the broadcasted proclamation. I seem to remember that in this proclamation, which I signed, the paragraph was included concerning the shooting of persons who assist the perpetrators in any manner, and of the members of their families. I did not compose the text of the proclamation, it was submitted to me by the Sicherheitspolizei /security police/, and originated from a higher source. At the moment when the text was submitted to me for signature, I did not have the clear perception that by signing it, I was committing a crime, although in my feelings I was already at that time opposed to these methods. Today I admit that such an order to shoot the entire family for what the father has done, is a crime. At that time, it was decisive for me that it was my duty to execute the orders.

I remark that a special commission was sent from Berlin to Prague with instructions to investigate all circumstances connected

with the assassination and to take all measures. I then signed a proclamation describing the circumstances of the incident and calling upon the population to give to the authorities all information concerning the perpetrators. I seem to remember that this proclamation contained the warning that every person who is in the possession of such information and omits to communicate same to the authorities will be shot with his family. A second warning was contained in this proclamation that everybody who omits to register with the police after 28 May, should he not yet be registered, will be punished with death.

This was valid for the entire Protectorate.

Also the text of this proclamation was submitted to me for signature by the Sicherheitspolizei /security police/, and I refer to what I have said above in connection with my responsibility.

Finally I signed a proclamation, dated Prague 27 May 1942, with which the "zivile Ausnahmezustand" /martial law for civilians/ was introduced immediately in the entire Protectorate. Also this proclamation contained the threat that persons who participated in the assassination or gave shelter to the assassins or helped them or, knowing their identity or whereabouts, omitted to inform the authorities would be shot together with their families. Also the text of this proclamation was submitted to me presumably by the Sicherheitspolizei /security police/ and was drafted presumably by the Reichssicherheitshauptamt /main office for the security of the Reich/. As to my point of view in respect to this proclamation, the above-said is valid.

Today I recognise that such methods were excesses of a brutal system. I do not know how many persons were shot on the basis of the above-mentioned proclamations. I presume that the number of persons executed by the Standgerichten /court-martial/ on the basis of the above proclamations was 1500 to 2000. I remember this number because abroad the number of approximately 20,000 persons was published and therefore I informed myself whether this figure was correct. At that time I was told, as I believe, by the Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei /executive commander of the security police/ that the figure of only 1500 to 2000 was correct.

I had nothing to do with the establishment of the Standgerichte /courts-martial/. I cannot remember anymore who was responsible for the appointment of the judges of the Standgerichte /courts-martial/.

Lidice:

I know exactly that the order to make the village of Lidice even with the ground, to shoot the men, send the women to concentration camps and the children to special educational establishments came directly as "Sonderbefehl" /special order/ from the Fuehrer's Headquarters. I myself had nothing to do with this matter. On the day of the burning of the village of Lidice I was in Berlin with Heydrich's children to attend his state funeral. I learned about the whole matter only after my return to Prague. It remains in my memory that the number of men shot in Lidice was 86. I do not know at all the number of the other victims.

I do not know which troops committed the crime of Lidice. I

presume that it was a special execution commando formed for this purpose, which possibly came directly from Berlin.

Question: Do you admit that the annihilation of the village of Lidice, the shooting of the men and the deportation of the women and children was a crime?

Answer: I do admit it today.

I add here: The reason for this execution was that the police presumed that the perpetrators were being hidden in Lidice by the population.

Lezaky:

I remember dimly that later on a similar execution was carried out in a small village called Lezaky. I did not give the order for it and nothing more is known to me about it.

In early June or mid-June 1942 a personal order of Adolf Hitler was transmitted to me by telephone by the Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler to execute 30,000 to 40,000 Czechs, suspected of political activities, as a reprisal for the assassination of Heydrich. I asked immediately for an interview with Adolf Hitler before executing this order, which was immediately granted to me. As far as I remember I flew to the Fuehrer's Headquarters immediately and explained to Adolf Hitler in a report of half-an-hour the situation which would arise through the execution of the order. I remember exactly that I told Adolf Hitler the following: "My Fuehrer, with this order you undermine all basis for a peaceful cohabitation with the Czech people and for their work output. You produce hereby 300,000 avengers". I succeeded that this order was immediately  
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withdrawn.

Concluded and signed:

/s/ K.H.Frank

I solemnly swear that I have made a true translation of the statement in German of Karl Herrmann Frank to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

ELISABETH RADZIZJEWSKA  
Interpreter

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of June, 1945.

JOSEPH C. BRECKINRIDGE  
Lt. Colonel. C. M. P.