

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

DOCUMENT ROOM INTERROGATION ANALYSIS

WITNESS: Von Ribbentrop DATE: 20 September 1945,
BY : Col. Brundage 1430 - 1615
 Mr. D.C. Pool, Special Nurnberg
 Representative of the
 Secretary of State.

NAME HEADINGS : Von Ribbentrop, Hitler

INDEX HEADINGS: Preparations for War - Diplomatic Treaties.

Witness says that the Three Powers Pact was designed to keep the United States out of the war by the threat of war in the Atlantic and Pacific at the same time (1). The Anti-Comintern Pact was more a matter of Weltanschauung and opposition to the idea of Communism, than it was a matter of politics or balance of power, though it did have an anti-Russian political element and was intended to build up good relations with Japan (2 - 12). The Bureau Ribbentrop was an unofficial group, consisting of witness and a few collaborators, which was primarily concerned with improving German relations with France and England; it also assisted witness in negotiating the Anti-Comintern Pact (13 - 15). Von Neurath probably knew of the Pact before it was signed, but in general, and especially in the case of the Naval Treaty with London, Hitler preferred to bypass the Foreign Office, which he distrusted (16 - 20). The Treaty of 1939 with Russia was sincerely intended as a permanent arrangement by Hitler and Ribbentrop (21, 22). The reversal of policy in 1941 was occasioned mainly by Russian moves to the West, by Russian concentration of troops on the border, and by revival of Communist propaganda in German factories (22, 23). The Austrian question of 1938 was handled almost entirely by Hitler (28 - 30). Witness discusses his desire for friendship with England and his lack of success as Ambassador there (30 - 34). Witness cannot remember whether he talked to Dirksen - his successor as Ambassador to England - in August of 1939 (35 - 42). The British never offered to return any of Germany's old colonies (42 - 44).