

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

DOCUMENT ROOM INTERROGATION ANALYSIS

WITNESS: Wilhelm Hoettl
BY : Lt. Col. Brookhart

DATE: 2 October 1945
1430-1705
PLACE: Nurnberg

NAME HEADINGS: Hitler, Himmler, Kaltenbrunner

INDEX HEADINGS: Concentration Camps, Jews, Persecution of

Dr. Hoettl describes the organization of RSHA, in connection with a 60 page memorandum previously prepared by him (3-7). In December 1942, witness met one Adolf Eichmann. At that time Eichmann said he had organized a central office of Jewish emigration in Berlin and in Prague. Eichmann belonged to Amt 4, which later was called Amt 3. He said that on orders of Heydrich he had set up a referat concerned not only with Jewish affairs, but with "liberation (freimachung) of the Reich area from undesirable minorities and individuals". In 1944 Eichmann told witness that he had continued the Heydrich project under Kaltenbrunner (8). Witness does not know of a meeting during the winter of 1943 over which Eichmann presided (9). Witness thinks that Hitler gave the order for extermination of Jews shortly after the battle of Stalingrad (13). Winklemann, higher SS and Police later in Hungary told witness that Eichmann was sent to Hungary by RSHA to carry out the Nazi program against Jews there (14). Eichmann was to deport the Jews from Hungary to Germany (15). He was successful in clearing the Hungarian Provinces 100%. Witness does not know whether he was equally thorough in Budapest (15). Near the end of the war, witness had a further conversation with Eichmann. He said that he took the biggest part in the extermination of European Jews and that his life would be forfeited in case of the war being lost, because he was on the list of war criminals. Witness asked how many Jews were exterminated. Eichmann replied that this was a state secret. He told witness however that he had made a report to Himmler stating that 4,000,000 Jews were exterminated in the camps and that 2,000,000 had been killed by shooting by the State Police during the campaign in Russia. Himmler believed these figures too low (17). Witness thinks the Einsatzkommandos started in June 1941 and did most of their work in the year thereafter. He describes what he knows of these groups (18-23). Witness then details his own activities during the last year and a half of the war (33-39).