

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

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Doc. No. 1842-PS

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Report on Meeting between Mussolini and Ribbentrop on 19 September 1940.

Date: 19 Sept. 40 Original ( ) Copy (x) Language: German

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of 22 October 1945:  
Foreign Office Archives, Marburg. Enclose photostat with request for original.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: D-2

PERSONS IMPLICATED: HITLER, Adolf; RIBBENTROP, Joachim von

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADINGS (Key to Par. Nos. of Summary below):  
ANNEXATION OF CONQUERED TERRITORY; ATROCITIES: Mixed; AGGRESSIVE WAR, STATEMENTS AND PLANS; FOREIGN PENETRATION: Controlled Governments; FOREIGN PENETRATION: Propaganda; PREPARATIONS FOR WAR: Diplomatic; PREPARATIONS FOR WAR: Psychological.

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM; LEADS: Ambassador von Mackensen; Ambassador Schmidt.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

1. Ribbentrop informed Mussolini about the situation of the war against England. Whereas England can only send a few isolated bombers over Germany at night, Germany was conducting heavy "revenge-bombing raids". London will be in ruins soon. (Pages 46358 and 46359). The plight of England is further described on page 46360.

2. Within the next week, the German - Italian - Japanese pact against America's entry into the war can be signed. There are three reasons against America's entry: the dislike of the Americans of direct participation; the opinion of American business interests that there would be no economic advantages; and the fear of Japan. If shrewdly used in propaganda, the pact would block America's entry and give the isolationists a good argument, namely, that war against such a world coalition was too dangerous. That is why Hitler had authorized him to conclude such a pact. (Pages 46361 and 46362).

3. Pages 46362 to 46365 discuss the possible effect of the Japanese pact on Russia. The gist is that Russia was too weak to do anything about it.

4. In Greece and Yugoslavia, only Italian interests were involved. Italy alone could take care of the problems there and could count on German support. However, it would be better at the present time to concentrate all

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forces on the destruction of England. Germany herself was interested in the Northern German Provinces (Gau), Norway, etc. Mussolini concurred. (Page 46365).

5. Spain has declared her intention to join the war. It was Spain's wish to get the Western coast of Morocco and Gibraltar. Hitler was ready to support the Spanish wishes for Morocco at the peace conference. However, Germany would secure for herself bases on the coast of Morocco and some of the Canary Islands. Furthermore, she would secure for herself some raw materials in Morocco, e.g., the phosphate mines in Northern Morocco. Italy would certainly not object as she would get phosphate mines in the part of Algeria bordering on Tunisia. Mussolini concurred. (Page 46366).

6. Ribbentrop then explained the Spanish plan for the attack on Gibraltar and Germany's participation, and presented a map with the Spanish territorial demands. Mussolini declared that they did not conflict with Italy's aspirations. A protocol about Spain's entry into the war would be signed in Berlin after Ribbentrop's return. It had been agreed orally that Spain would join as soon as Franco was ready and the German special troops and air force units had arrived in Spain. (Pages 46366 and 46367).

7. In his reply, Mussolini painted a gloomy picture of conditions in England. America was already practically in the war as she was supplying England with war materials. However, it was too late for an intervention with the armed forces; America was, furthermore, afraid of the "Japs". (46368 and 46369).

8. He then discussed the Tripartite Pact and its effect on Russia. He also expects Russia "to take it". (Pages 46369 and 46370).

9. Ribbentrop declared that the pact was world coalition against the spreading out of the war. After the defeat of England, Germany, Italy and Spain would introduce the "new order" in Europe and Africa, Japan in East Asia. Russia was not concerned. If America should stand against this new order also after the defeat of England, she would have Germany, Italy, Spain and Japan--practically the whole world--against her. Russia would stay out. (Page 46370).

10. Italy would take no action against Greece and Yugoslavia for the time being. She had large troop concentrations on the frontiers of these countries for security reasons. But the war against England was the main object at this time. (Page 46371).

11. The relationship to Spain and France is further discussed. The Spanish intervention would make North Africa safe for the Axis. Mussolini advocates Spanish intervention this winter; Ribbentrop is in favor of an earlier participation. (Pages 46371 and 46372/1).

12. Italy, Germany and Spain should press President Salazar for cooperation of Portugal with the Axis. (Pages 46372/1 and 46372/2).

13. The King of Sweden had sent a letter to Hitler offering his services as a mediator. Hitler had declined. (Page 46372/2).