

TRANSLATION BY  
Mrs. Plummer

*Schacht*

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12 November 1945

TO: General Donovan

FROM: Dr. von Schlabrendorff

SUBJECT: Trial Brief on Dr. Hjalmar Schacht

The brief against SCHACHT shows that the indictment for persecution of Jews cannot be maintained. There are too many Jews who were aided by SCHACHT in saving their lives and property, and to whom SCHACHT will refer when this point is brought up before the Court.

There remain therefore merely (a) participation in the conspiracy and (b) crime against the peace.

In August 1934 SCHACHT was appointed Minister of Economics by HINDENBURG, and not by HITLER, as stated under (B).

On the other hand in January 1943, SCHACHT dismissed from the cabinet by HITLER. At the same time he was forced to relinquish the Golden Party Badge. Between these two events, the following had taken place:

SCHACHT had, as a poor but ambitious politician as well as a financier of genius, put himself at the disposition of HITLER as the leader of the strongest party. Doubtlessly he financed the German rearmament program up to 1938. Like all Germans he considered the Treaty of Versailles as a treaty which had to be altered if Germany were not to perish.

In this respect SCHACHT was backed up by public opinion in the United States. When SCHACHT realized the aims of HITLER's policy he tried to distract him towards the question of the German colonies. SCHACHT was in Paris in 1936 or 1937. He negotiated with Leon BLUM who promised him the return of the colonies. In London SCHACHT wastold that England was ready to discuss the colonial question. HITLER did not want to hear of such matters. In order to change the map of Europe, he started with Austria and the Sudeten territory. Both actions received the stamp of approval first of the German people, then of the world. Even the American, John Foster DULLES, agreed with Germany's demands for Austria and the Sudeten territory in his well-known book concerning the peace.

After SCHACHT had been unsuccessful in his attempts to direct HITLER's attention to the colonial question, he refused further credits, and had to go. SCHACHT IS economically too clever to have wanted war. Occasional remarks prove nothing. There is no definite piece of evidence to prove that SCHACHT was in agreement with HITLER's intentions to wage war. The same opinion is borne out by DAVIES in his book "Mission to Moscow" where he explicitly expressed it and added that Molotov was of the opinion that SCHACHT did not want war. When in 1941 Germany and the United States had declared war on each other, ROOSEVELT sent a message to SCHACHT via the American ambassador in Berlin, KIRCK, to the effect that SCHACHT should

save himself since he would be needed after the war. This message was delivered to SCHACHT by Director HUELSE of the Reichsbank. From that moment on SCHACHT did everything in his power to overthrow HITLER. As a consequence he ended up in a concentration camp.

Conclusion: SCHACHT caused the rearmament program and is to be blamed for it. He is a partner in the HITLER conspiracy only in the sense of having caused it, not in the sense of premeditated design. The moment he realized that HITLER did not only want to elevate Germany to the status of other powers, but wanted to make her a world power, he tried to distract him toward the question of colonies. Then, when he failed with that, he refused the credits, was dismissed, and entered into opposition against HITLER.

/s/ von Schlabrendorff

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