

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of von SCHIRACH, Baldur

By: Lt. Col. Thomas A. Hinkel, 15 September 1945, P.M. Nuremberg

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

1. von SCHIRACH

- e) His political and party positions since 1940 (pp. 2-9)
 - 1) Arthur Axmann (p. 4)
 - 2) Hitler youth compulsory organization (p. 10)
- b) His Army position (p. 4)
- c) His relations with Lauterbacher, Goering, Goebbels, Frank and Ley (p. 11)
- d) His political and party duties in Austria after annexation (pp. 2-4, 10)
- e) Persecution of Jews in Austria during his stay (p. 7)
- f) Identification and acknowledgement of document, " Exhibit 521" (p. 8)

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A. YOUTH INDOCTRINATION

1. Von Schirach was appointed by Hitler in 1940 as Reichsstatthalter and Gauleiter of Vienna. He also was a lieutenant in the Army. At the time of his appointment, he had to give up his position as Reichs-Jugend-Fuehrer and proposed as his successor Arthur Axmann but he kept his position as Reichs-Leiter something like a General Inspktor of HJ. (4). Describing his position, he declared that Reich Jugend Fuehrer was something like a Commander-in-Chief, and above the position of Reich Jugend Fuehrer was that of Reich Leiter similar to a Minister of War. Schirach admits that he retained that ministerial post. (9). His job was to develop education in such a way as to indoctrinate German Youth with the idea of MEIN KAMPF, and he did it in a decree satisfactory to Hitler. (10).

The Hitler Youth comprised all Germanyouth except those of Jewish extraction was originally a voluntary organization but became, by the law of 1 December 1936, a compulsory one (10). Schirach disclaimed knowledge that anybody was ever expelled from the HJ. He kept in contact with most Party leaders and had many political discussions with them. These persons were: Lauterbacher, Goering, Goebbels, Frank, and Ley (11).

B. ANNEXATION OF AUSTRIA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NAZI INSTITUTIONS.

His task as Gauleiter of Vienne was to settle the differences and difficulties between the Viennese and the Germans who went to Vienna; and to rehabilitate the social life of Vienna, especially in regard to theaters, concerts, and art galleries. (2 - 4).

His Viennese position included the following functions:

- a) Reichsstatthalter, meaning the general administration
- b) Town administration, including the office of the first Mayor, civil administration, and the town police.
- c) Gauleiter, meaning leader of the political party
- d) Reich Defense Commissar for Vienna (5).

C. PERSECUTIONS OF THE JEWS.

Hitlers instruction was also to transplant Jews of Vienna to Czechoslovakia and Poland for building roads. Schirach accepted those orders without any opposition.

Schirach cooperated with the higher SS and police leaders but denied any participation in the transplantation of the Jews (6) who, as he stated, were treated like the German Jews. The transplantation of the Jews started one year before he came to Vienna and continued during his whole stay there or until the middle of April 1945 (7).

D. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DOCUMENT.

Schirach acknowledged the signature on a typewritten statement dated 9 September 1945 as his own and declared that he prepared the statement and signed it of his own free will. (8)

The typewritten statement, "Exhibit 521 11/9/1945" says that Schirach was responsible for the organization and education of the HJ, not only for the period he was Reichs-Leiter but also for the period of his successor, Axmann.