

51.01

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of SPEER

By: Major Monigan, 9 October 1945, a.m.

-
1. SPEER
 - a. Armament and war production (p. 1, 2)
 - b. Labor (p. 2)
 - c. Central Planning Commission (p. 2)
 - d. Forced labor (p. 9)
 - (1) Russian PW's (p. 10)
 2. SAUCKEL
 - a. Plenipotentiary-General for manpower (p. 16)
 - b. Foreign Labor (p. 16)
 3. BORMANN
 - a. Manpower (p. 18)
 4. WEHRMACHT (p. 19)
 5. GOERING
 - a. Manpower (p. 18)

51
01

Speer, 9. Oct. 1945, a.m.

Held the position of Reichsminister for Armament and War Production from 19 September 1943. Before that, he was Reichsminister for Armament and Munitions (1942-September 1943).

The interrogation concerns itself with the Central Planning Commission and its relationship to the Allocation of Labor Requirements, both German and foreign. The Central Planning Commission, Speer says, was set up under the Four Year Plan; presiding over it, together with Speer, were Koerner and Milch. Initially, it did not deal with labor, but later was forced to take over manpower distribution. Until then the Labor division of Speer's Armament Department handled manpower. Sauckel attended the two Central Planning Commission conferences in the spring of 1944, and distribution of workers was discussed. (p.2).

Speer maintains that only Sauckel could determine the numerical need for workers to meet production requirements (p.5), since he had requests from all ministries (p.6). While Hitler gave him (Speer) order for armaments directly (p.8), Sauckel allocated manpower (p.9). Speer admits he did not oppose use of the conscription law in occupied countries to secure foreign workers, but attributes responsibility to Sauckel (p.9). He (Speer) specified only one that Russian PW's be used for the mining industry. (p.10) Otherwise, he simply asked Sauckel to fill his total manpower needs, that is, 500,000-600,000 men (p.11); and never made any requests to Sauckel for foreign workers (p.12).

Speer states he had no objection to Sauckel being chosen for the post of plenipotentiary-general for man-power (p.16), although he himself suggested Hanken (p.15). He never forced Sauckel to use any foreign labor. (p.16). Sauckel reported to Hitler directly, but gave copies of his reports to him (Speer) and to Goering. (p.18). Speer speaks of a Dr. Roland as a pioneer in the better use of German man-power. (p.18). Speer attempted through a committee (Gremium) composed of Klotzel, Lammers, and Bormann to bring about better use of German man-power. This Gremium aimed at a complete totalitarian war but was in no position to carry out such a program. (p.18). It was limited to manpower questions and the adapting of questions for the Wehrmacht. (p.19). Since Gremium effectiveness was limited, Speer says he suggested a man-power chief, and on the basis of this suggestion Goebbels was appointed. (p.19,20).