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20 November 1945

MEMORANDUM TO GENERAL DOHOVAN:

From: Mr. Gaevernitz

Baron Guenther von Haniel, a German national, formerly domiciled at the Heinhansen near Munich, and the son of a former German Ambassador to Washington. Haniel joined the SS in 1935, but according to his own story succeeded in leaving the SS again in 1940 or 1941.

Haniel claims to have participated in the attempt of July 20, 1944 to overthrow the Hitler regime. As a result he was persecuted by the Gestapo.

Late in the summer of 1944, Haniel escaped into Switzerland. Late in 1944 Haniel contacted American representatives in Switzerland and stated that he wished to do everything in his power to contribute to the overthrow of National Socialism. He said he was willing to take any personal risk and to be prepared to go to Germany if by doing so he could help the Allied cause. Thereupon in March 1945, he proceeded from Switzerland to Munich under an assumed name. His mission was to establish contact with Bavarian anti-Nazi resistance groups, also to contact certain officials in the Gestapo, whom Haniel believed had turned against Hitler and therefore might be of help to the Allies.

After a short stay at Munich, Haniel fell into a Gestapo trap, was arrested and threatened with execution.

Later on he was released and managed to return to Switzerland.

After this, Haniel entered Munich with the American troops and worked closely with American intelligence officers. He contributed materially in the capture and arrest of a number of prominent Nazis in the Munich area.

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