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To: General Donovan
From: Dr. Pathy
Subject: Admiral Horthy

File

The object of this memorandum is to keep you informed about the proceedings in this matter.

Major Monigan asked me to be present Monday, October 22, at an interrogation of Admiral Horthy, in the course of which he would hand him over my memorandum dated October 17. We decided not to proceed to a formal interrogation, but rather see to it that the witness understands the questionnaire.

As we proceeded into the interrogation room, we were met by Lt. Doman, who asked from Major Monigan permission to assist to the interrogation. Such permission was granted.

At the close of the interrogation, which was conducted by Major Monigan in a very friendly and capable way, Lt. Doman asked him to put to the witness a series of questions to which the Hungarian government is anxious to have, as he said, urgent answers. The nature of these questions had no relation to the questionnaire and would have had in my opinion upset the mind of the witness, which was to be avoided at this stage. I therefore objected to these questions. Major Monigan decided to leave the decision of whether these questions should be put to the witness and at what stage to Colonel Amen.

Having throughout the interrogation got the impression that the assistance of the witness' son would contribute to avoid the sidelining of Admiral Horthy's prospective declarations, I again asked Major Monigan to take the necessary steps if, as he said, the decision to have him brought down has already been made. To this effect, I pointed out that the time still remaining before the scheduled opening of the trials was very short.

Lt. Doman objected to the joining by young Horthy of his father, stating that the son had no official position, and to his knowledge was nothing less than an ordinary play boy who would distort the otherwise truthful declarations of his father. I again took exception against this superficial and, in my opinion, inaccurate and unjustified statement.

To Major Monigan's question whether the Hungarian Government has listed or has in mind to list Horthy as a war criminal, Lt. Doman answered that the responsible persons of the Hungarian Government have declared to him that the Government, in order to avoid embarrassment, has not listed and has not the intention to list Horthy as a war criminal. But said Lt. Doman if Horthy would be sent back to Hungary, the Hungarian Government would be forced to try and shoot him (sic). To a further question of Major Monigan as to whether the Hungarian Government would give a similar undertaking given by Justice Jackson (not to indict him in the Major War Criminal Trials) e. g., not to try him before a Hungarian Court, Lt. Doman answered that the Hungarian Government was not in a position to give such a guaranty.

I asked Major Monigan to keep me au courant of further developments.

A. E. P.

Oct. 23, 1945