OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

Index of Statements in Report

Name: SCHWERIN von KROSIGK, Graf Johann Ludwig ("Luitpold")
Nationality: German
Region: Berlin W. 68, Wilhelmsplatz 1 (business)
Birken-Zehlendorf, Thielallee 69 (home)

Position: Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Finance

Birth Date and Place: 23 August 1887, Rathmannsdorf, Anhalt

Religion: Protestant (attended services conducted by Niemoller)

Family History: Krosigk is the son of Frich Adolf von Krosigk (1827-1911) by his second wife, Luise Gräfin (Countess) von Schwerin (1852-1920) of the Schwerin branch of the family.

He married his half-niece, Ehrengard von Platenberg (born 1897) in summer 16 February 1919. They have eight children born between 1920 and 1928.

Education and Work History: Schwerin von Krosigk attended the Klosterneuburg Schule. Upon graduation in 1905 he studied law and political science at the Universities of Lausanne, Oxford and Halle.

1909 First state law examination at the Oberlandesgericht Hambourg
1909 Referendar (law clerk) at the district court in Stassfurt
1909-1910 Voluntary military service with the 2nd Poznanian Uhlans Regt.
1910 Government clerk (Regierungsratsreferendar) in the District Administration, Stettin
1914 Regierungsassessor
1914-1918 Service in World War I as first lieutenant; wounded; decorated with the Iron Cross Classes I and II.
1919 Regierungsassessor in the county administration (Landrat) in Hindenburg, Upper Silesia
1920 Regierungsrat (Government councillor) in the Reich Ministry of Finance

Subject was adopted on 17 May 1925, at the age of 37, by his mother’s brother, Alfred Graf von Schwerin. Since that time Johann Ludwig von Krosigk bears the name and title of Graf Schwerin von Krosigk.

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SCHWERIN von KROSIK, Graf Johann Ludwig ("Lutz")

Education and Work History: (cont.)

1922 Oberregierungsrat in the Reich Ministry of Finance

1925 Ministerialrat (Ministerial Councillor) in the Reich Ministry of Finance

1 January 1929 Generalreferent für den Reichshaushalt (official in charge of preparing and supervising the budget of the German Reich)

2 July 1932 Reich Minister of Finance in the Papen Cabinet and until Hitler's fall

1933 Delegate to the London Conference

Member of the Academy of German Law

May 1945 Appointed German Foreign Minister by Dönitz

Political History: Although nothing is known about Schwerin von Krosigk's political affiliations under the republic, it may be assumed, on the basis of his work, that he belonged to conservative circles.

According to source 7/, Schwerin von Krosigk was often a guest of the Herrenklub (gentlemen's club) where Papen, Freiherr von Gagern, von Schleicher, and others met to prepare the overthrow of the republican Prussian government and the establishment of a conservative, semi-fascist, semi-totalitarian Reich government. To what extent Schwerin von Krosigk participated actively in this planning is not known. But the fact that Hindenburg, at Papen's request, appointed him Reich Minister of Finance, indicates that the Reich President, Papen and his clique had full confidence in Schwerin von Krosigk.

In February 1933 it was said of him that he would serve any government because he had "seven children, no money and no business ability." 8/

The New York periodical Aufbau 7/ recalls that Schwerin von Krosigk, who, as Reich Minister of Finance, was responsible for the robberies committed by German Jews, had written numerous letters to British and American officials in 1933 to 1939 wherein he flatly denied all German atrocities. However, significant is Schwerin von Krosigk's letter of 8 September 1933, quoted by source 2/, to the editor of the London Economist who had informed the British public of atrocities committed in Germany against political prisoners. Referring to this article, Schwerin von Krosigk says in the aforementioned letter: Völkisch authorities assure law, order and employment in Germany. All other statements in this letter are only "Emigrant sensationalism" (lies uttered by emigrés).

After he was appointed Foreign Minister by Dönitz in May 1945, he declared over the Hamburg radio that "Germany could have saved Europe from Bolshevism if its rear had not been threatened." 2/. A few days later Schwerin von Krosigk...
Political History: (cont.) told the German people over the Flensburg radio that Dönitz had ordered the unconditional surrender of all German forces 10/1, adding that "in our nation justice shall be the supreme law and the guiding principle." In this radio speech he also demanded that Germany should recognize "law as the basis of all relations between the nations" assuring the Western Allies that "then Germany may hope that she will again receive the freedom without which no nation can lead a bearable and dignified existence." In another radio speech, delivered some days later over the Flensburg radio, he asserted that the Western Allies have virtually only the alternative between a Schwerin von Krosigk government and a Germany ruled by the Dönitz government. 11/ When Schwerin von Krosigk became Minister of Finance in the Hitler government in 1933, he was not a member of the Nazi Party. But party membership was granted to him by Hitler on 30 January 1937 12/.

Evaluation (according to source 6/): Schwerin von Krosigk has demonstrated his willingness to serve any government. He served the German Republic as a conservative "loyal civil servant." He participated in the Fajan government that put an end to the republican Prussian Government in July 1932. To the Fajan, his Minister of Finance for more than 12 years and therefore shares responsibility for crimes committed by this government. After Dönitz had himself proclaimed the new head of the German Reich, Schwerin von Krosigk did not hesitate to join Dönitz' government as Foreign Minister. Of the non-Nazi who in 1933 accepted ministerial posts in the Nazi government, only Franz Seldte, Reich Minister of Labor, and Schwerin von Krosigk remained in office up to the day of unconditional surrender, and both joined the Dönitz government 13/. While Seldte is reported to have become a member of the Nazi party shortly after Hitler came to power, Schwerin von Krosigk was granted party membership by Hitler on 30 January 1937. Schwerin von Krosigk's position and attitude under the Nazi regime took him as a Nazi.

Information up to May 1945

Sources: 1/ Taschenbuch der Grüßen Familien, 1938, p. 323; pp. h06-h07
2/ Taschenbuch der Adeligten Häuser, Teil 1, 1937, p. 267
3/ Deutsches Führer Lexikon, 1931/35
4/ Wer Ist's, 1935
5/ Otto Horkenbach, Das Deutsche Reich von 1918 bis heute, 1935, vol. 1
6/ OSS Source T, 2 May 1945
7/ Friedrich Stampfer, Die 14 Jahre der Kuren Deutschen Republik, p. 67
8/ New York Times, 3 May 1945, p. 14
2/ New York, 11 May 1945, p. 7 e 3 2
10/ New York Times 7 May 1945, p. 3, c. 1
11/ New York Times 15 May 1945, p. 5, c. 1

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12/ New York Times 24 May 1945, p. 9 c. 4

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1 June 1945

This record is a summary of such intelligence (from one or more sources as indicated) as was available at the time of preparation. It may consequently be subject to amendment by additional or more recent intelligence. Index numbers and letters are solely for indexing statements in the report.

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