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Interrogation of ERHARD MILCH
By Major Monigan
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Milch did not attend the meeting on 28 May 1938 in which Czechoslovakia affairs were discussed nor did he subsequently learn of the meeting or the remarks of the Fuehrer in that regard. The phrase, "It is my unshakable will that Czechoslovakia should be wiped off the map" is typically Hitler jargon, according to Milch, but he himself never heard Hitler say it.

Milch was unaware of Party activity and agitation in the Sudeten land except what he read in the newspapers. He did not know of any incidents which were staged to serve as pretexts for the invasion but assumed if there were any that they were arranged by the Party. Similarly, it was his opinion that if arms were supplied for such an affair the Party likewise supplied them or perhaps the SS but probably not the Wehrmacht, and he was certain that the Luftwaffe had no connection with such activities.

He identified the Document L-79 which was the notes of Schmundt made at the meeting with Hitler on 23 May 1939 and agreed that that represented an expression of Hitler's policy that he intended to obtain Poland by peaceful measures, if possible, but if they were unsuccessful, then by war.

Milch was present at the meeting of military commanders called by Hitler at Obersalzburg on 22 August 1939 and at the interrogation he examined Documents L-3 and 798-PS. He was quite positive that 798-PS represented an accurate report of the matters discussed by the Fuehrer except for two sentences in the third paragraph of page 5 which he could not remember the Fuehrer saying. He, of course, stated that his recollection after so many years might have been faulty in this regard but felt that these sentences were not correct since they did not in his opinion represent Hitler's views. He was quite certain that Document L-3 was not correct since Hitler was quite happy about the Russian pact, the news of which he had just received the preceding day, and was therefore not likely to make any derogatory statements about Russia at that time in such meeting. Milch was of the same opinion concerning the recital in L-3 that companies of German soldiers dressed in Polish uniforms would be used as a pretext for incidents. In his opinion, if Hitler had such in mind, he would not have reported it to so large a gathering of people.

Milch could not recall the so-called second address of the Fuehrer at Obersalzburg on the same day reported in 1014-PS. The ideas there expressed were certainly those of the Fuehrer and the phrases were those which he habitually used, but Milch had no recollection of hearing the speech on the day in question.

Milch identified Documents C-106, L-43, and 375-PS. L-43 he characterized as a Utopian study entirely divorced from reality and the notion of 144 Geswarden ridiculous. He recognized the signature of Kammhuber, and concerning the annexes to the document, particularly the map indicating the expansion of the territorial limits of Germany, observed that one would think Kammhuber had access to all the Fuehrer's future plans.

Regarding C-106, Milch stated that he did not believe it was in any way related to L-43 and differed from that document in that it was within the capabilities of the equipment of the Luftwaffe at that time whereas the other was a mere theoretical study.

Concerning 375-PS, Milch stated that it was prepared by the Intelligence Section of the OKW and considered the possibility that the Western powers and Russia might react to the occupation of Czechoslovakia. The writer Milch did not know and the photostat did not clearly indicate the signature. He felt, however, that the items outlining the political situation and possible targets in France for German Air Force bombers were designed to emphasize the importance of the author of the paper rather than to outline any prospective action. If the paper was designed to be in order, it would not have issued from Section 5 but from the Operations Section of the OKW, Section 1.

Milch identified 789-PS as an accurate reproduction of the speech of Hitler on 23 November 1939 which he himself attended. The occasion for the speech was, in Milch's own language, "a shot in the arm for the military commanders so that their spirits would echo the thoughts of the Fuehrer, and his enthusiasm for the prosecution of the war in the West would be transmitted to them." It was a typical Hitler speech which covered all subjects from the time of Adam and was referred to as such by the military people.

Milch was extremely cooperative throughout the interrogation and indicates a willingness to be of assistance.