Name: Winkler, Max

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin

Positions: Director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost under the Four Year Plan Office,
          Partner (persönlich haftender Gesellschafter) of the Deutscher Verlag, Berlin,
          Reichsbeauftragter für die Deutsche Filmindustrie (Reich Commissioner for the German movie industry),
          Head of the holding company of Ufa-Film GmbH,
          Member of the Advisory Board of the Deutsche Reichsbank,
          SS Sturmbannführer.

Birth date and place: 7 September 1975.

Work and Political History: An SS-Officer and ex-mayor of Lodz (Litzmannstadt) in German occupied Poland, Winkler has played an important part in the economic exploitation of Poland in his capacity as director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost in the Four Year Plan Office. The Haupttreuhandstelle Ost was the receiver of all property confiscated from the Polish state and from Polish citizens after the German occupation. By the middle of 1941 it had taken over thousands of commercial and industrial enterprises in Posen and Lodz (Litzmannstadt), and was responsible (with the consent of Himmler, who as Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the German Race exercises ultimate authority,) for the transfer of a large share of the industrial undertakings and mines of Upper Silesia to such German interests as the Göring combine and the Ballepriesch and Schaffgotsch concerns.

In addition the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost acquired vast holdings of land confiscated from its Polish owners (about 73,000 pieces of landed property by 1941), turning them over to German settlers or keeping them for soldiers after the war.
Winkler likewise profited from the "aryanization" of Jewish property in Germany. He was partner (persönlich haftender Gesellschafter) of the Deutscher Verlag, which took over the properties of the former Jewish-owned Ullstein Verlag, one of the largest and most prosperous publishing firms in Germany. The Deutscher Verlag in turn was controlled by the Eher Verlag, publishers of the Volkischer Beobachter, owned by Hitler, Amann and other top Nazis. Winkler is said to have served as agent (Strohmann) in the purchase of the Eher Verlag for the Nazi Party. The Eher Verlag absorbed many Jewish and anti-Nazi publishing concerns. Winkler also acted as Deputy for Goebbels and Amann in the administration of Nazi newspapers (Beauftragter für die wirtschaftliche Lenkung der Zeitungsverlage).

Winkler

Another field in which he played an important part was the film industry. He was Reichsbeauftragter für die Deutsche Filmindustrie (Reich Commissioner for the German Film Industry) and head of the holding company (Konzerngesellschaft) of UFA-Film GmbH, largest German movie producers which have flourished under Nazi auspices. Winkler is said to have contributed considerably to the monopolization of the German film industry.

Winkler was a member of the Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Deutsche Reichsbank. This appointment, as well as all his others, Winkler undoubtedly owed to his good standing in the Nazi Party.

Summary:

As director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost under the Four Year Plan Office Winkler has played an important part in the economic exploitation of Polish territories, and has shared in the formulation of German economic policy in regard to conquered territories. He has likewise profited from the "aryanization" of Jewish property in Germany. He has had considerable influence in Nazi publishing enterprises and in the German movie industry.

Sources:

OSS R & A 1910, 25 July 1944.
OSS Source S, 10 August 1943.
OSS Source S, 26 April 1943.
Winkler in Nazi Germany, 1944.
Der Osten, 1941-1942.
Würdenträger in Dritten Reich, 1943.

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.

1 May 1945.