

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

31.02

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of HANS FRANK
By: Lt. Col. Hinkel, 3 October 1945, p.m.

31

PERSONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. HANS FRANK
 - a. Discrimination against Polish population (p. 4, 6, 15, 23)
 - (1) Pillage of agricultural and other food products (p. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14-16, 31)
 - (2) Pillage of clothing supplies (p. 9)
 - (3) Confiscation of Polish real estate (p. 21, 31-32)
 - b. Mass deportations of population (p. 11-12)
 - c. Killing of Polish hostages and system of "family" responsibility (p. 17-18, p. 21, 24-25, 31-32)
 - d. Subversive influence against the Catholic Church in Poland (p. 15, 23-24).
 - e. Discussion of documents : L-37 (p. 18-20), 437-PS (p. 31-33)
2. GOERING
 - a. Pillage of agriculture and other food products (p. 1, 2, 6, 15).

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Says Goering and the Minister of Food and Nutrition determined quotas on agricultural products to be produced. (1) Admits that a quota of 560,000 tons of foodstuffs was called for supplying Goering and the Wehrmacht (2). Denies that : quotas were assigned to areas and individual farms which exceeded the productive capacity of these farms and areas. (3) that: Germans in Poland were permitted both meat and eggs during a period, whereas the Poles were permitted only one or the other, that : farmholders who had no land of their own were deprived of food cards. (4) that: few Polish children actually got milk because distribution discontinued except as an "isolated temporary condition", that : foodstuffs such as sugar, marmelade, flour, cereal, and even meat, were discontinued for periods of several months at a time; states that one thing or another was substituted for food. (5) different standards were applied to Germany and Poland, that: the Polish Aid Committee ceased activities in July, 1942. Admits that extra nourishment for Polish children prohibited but blames Goering. (6) that: sheriffs were instructed to liquidate activities to give Polish children extra nourishment (7) Denies knowledge of a decree of 6 January 1943, discontinuing the practice of feeding school children at the schools. (8) Admits that he wrote a report in June 1943, in

which he stated that nutrition for the population of the General Government of Poland was insufficient, but justified this on ground that if he hadn't done it Goering would have made impossible demands on him. Admitted that a deterioration in the attitude of the Poles toward Germany had resulted from a vigorous measure used to obtain labor forces. (14) Admits that he stated that the nutrition of the urban population was not sufficient for even a bare existence, but said this was because Goering had stated that everything but emergency food would be taken away from the Poles, and the situation was not actually that bad. Admits that he had stated that other nationalities were better treated than the Poles, but justified this on ground that he was being reproached for keeping too much for the Poles. Admits that Catholic priests were arrested, but does not know whether they were shot. (15) Admits that he stated that the General Government of Poland was able to furnish Germany with tremendous nutritional supplies to build up an armament economy in the General Government which could be expanded to furnish millions of labor forces to armaments and other vital industries of the Reich. (16).

CLOTHING

Admits that it was very deficient, largely because the two most important textile centers no longer available to Poland; some help given by the Polish Aid Committee. (9).

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

Denies having heard that they were given by Polish children to wounded German soldiers (10).

DEPORTEES FROM GERMAN-OCCUPIED POLAND

Admits many of them, mostly from Poznan and Pomerania, came in trainloads and were in terrible condition. (11-12) Denies having knowledge of the surrounding of a school in Galicia and the transportation of children between 12 and 16 first to a camp at Cracow, later to Germany for forced labor, but calls it an example of the "Methods with which the police worked" (12).

MASS RESPONSIBILITY

Denies that he knew that this policy (i.e., if a person committed an act and escaped, then punishment was visited on his family) was pursued, though he adds that he doesn't know what the police may have done. (17) Denies that he approved of this policy even in the case of assassination of Germans or destruction of vital installations (17-18).

USE BY POLICE OF HIS NAME ON OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Denies knowledge of document 1-37, after examining it and seeing his name attached; then states that the police often did this to "hide behind my name" (18-20).

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT 437-PS

This was a 45-page report by Frank of 19 June, 1943. He calls it a true copy, after considerable evasion and hesitation (26-30), but claims that parts of the report were exaggerated to accomplish his purpose with Hitler : Inadequate food supply, p. 10. Confiscation of small industries, pp. 10-11. The problem of the police and the shooting of hostages, p. 11, there were shooting, but not daily. (31-32). The paralization of cultural life and the closing of theaters, p. 11. (33)

REASONS FOR ADVERSE ATTITUDE OF POLES TOWARDS GERMANS

(a) The confiscation of a major part of the Polish estates, and the expropriation of Polish peasants (21).

(b) Encroachment of the police and the Army on industry and freight (22).

(c) The extensive paralization of cultural life, by Reich Propaganda Ministry. (22).

(d) The exclusion of Polish influence in the civil administration (23).

Denies that he reported, in June 1943, that a reason for the deterioration of the attitude of the population of the General Government of Poland toward Germany was arrests and mass shootings by German police, in accordance with the system of collective responsibility. (21) Admits the restricting of Catholic influence, including the closing and taking away of monasteries, schools and institutions, but says this was also done in Germany and done by the military, and that he tried to protect these things. (23-24).

HOSTAGES

Admits that there were shootings of hostages, but denies that there was a system of mass shootings; states that there were only isolated cases (24-25)