

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

32.02

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of WILHELM FRICK
By: Mr. T.J. Dodd, 6 September 1945 A.M.

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. FRICK
 - a. Control over internal affairs of Reich (p. 7).
 - (1) Responsibility for Cabinet decisions and Hitler's decrees (p.8-9,11,12)
 - (2) Drafting of military conscription laws in 1935 (p.11)
 - b. Concentration camps (p. 9,13,19,20,21)
 - (1) Relationship with Himmler (p. 9,12,19)
 - c. Persecution of Jews
 - (1) Drafting of decree of 16 December 1941 -re special treatment of Jews (p. 8 - 9)
 - (2) Drafting of Nuremberg racial laws (p.10)
 - d. Negotiations for Austrian Anschluss (p. 11,12,13)
 - e. Relationship with Hitler (p.9,12,13,14,16,20)
 - f. As Reichsprotector for Bohemia and Moravia (p. 14,16)
 - (1) Decrees of annexation of Polish territory (p. 17 - 19)
 - (2) Relationship with Karl Frank (p. 14,16)
2. HIMMLER
 - a. Concentration camps (p. 9,19,20,21)
 - b. Sipo and Gestapo in Austria prior to Anschluss (p.11,12,13)
 - c. Responsibility for executions in Roehm Putsch (p.10)
3. KARL FRANK
 - a. Control of Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (p.17)

POSITION IN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY AFFAIRS

Admits having had control over the internal affairs of the Reich (p.7). Admits participation and responsibility for all decisions made by Cabinet and all decrees issued by Hitler (p.8). Admits knowledge and responsibility for decrees issued by Hitler. Admits knowledge and responsibility for decree 16 December 1941 on special treatment of Jews and Poles (p. 8 - 9). In this connection states RSHA part of Ministry of the Interior (p.8-9). Emphatically denies responsibility for conduct and conditions in concentration camps which he attributes to Himmler (p.9,19,20,21). Attempted to have investigations of concentration camps since he was suspicious that something was wrong. He was told concentration camps were not a government but a Party matter. Lammers told him that Hitler said that he (Frick) had nothing to do with police matters. It was Himmler's job. States concentration camps were part of the SS budget (p.13).

Visited Oranienbryns in 1936 and 1937 and found "everything in perfect shape and order" (p.20). He had no power over Himmler since 1939. Know Himmler since 1923 (p.9,12,19). Hitler gave direct orders to Himmler and Goering re executions in connection with Roehm Putsch in 1934. Admits drafting of Nuremberg Racial Laws in Ministry of Interior Health Section (p. 10).

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Admits being originator of the Fuehrer's state laws in 1933 (p. 8,11,12). Admits responsibility for and drafting of the law for the reintroduction of military conscription in 1935 (p.11). Admits drafting the law on the "re-unification" in connection with Anschluss (p.11).

Denies having had representatives of his Ministry in Austria before Anschluss. Admits representatives of Foreign Office were in Austria (Neurath and Ribbentrop). Admits possibility of representatives from the Party and probability that Himmler had representatives from Sipo and Gestapo in Austria (p. 11,12,13).

Obvious line of defense: Estrangement between Hitler and Frick, direct contact between Hitler and Himmler, no controlling power, no authority in the Protectorate (i.o. Frank). By-passed in many matters (p. 9,12,13,14, 16,20).

AS REICHSPROTECTOR FOR BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA

States Hitler issued a decree the very same day, 20 or 23 August 1943, he (Frick) was appointed Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia "that all administrative matters were transferred to States Minister, Frank, and that the Reichsminister was simply a representative of the Fuehrer" (p.14,16).

Emphatically denies ever having signed an order for punishment of the people and stresses that he only had pardoning rights, which he used, in several cases (p. 14,16).

Functions in the protectorate were: the pardoning rights, the organization of the government in the Protectorate, and the appointment of certain categories of officials (p. 16).

The whole power of government was under Frank (p. 17).

The Special Court and People's Court were under Justice Minister Tierack, but under control of Frank, who had "certain powers since they (the accused) were brought to the court through the states attorney" (p.17). Attempts to put the responsibility of the punishment on "these courts, they did the sentencing" (p. 16).

Admits having signed decree of 18 and 20 May 1940, which brought the districts of Eupen, Malmedy, and Moresnet into the Reich (p. 17). Avoids admission of having signed decree of 23 May 1940 (compelling certain residents of above districts to become citizens of the Reich) even when reminded it had been signed by Hitler, Goering, Lammers, and himself. Wants to see the document. Such a document would have come from the Reichs Council for Defense (p. 17,18).

Avoids direct admission of signing decrees declaring great parts of Poland to be Reichs territory and binding the people there into forced allegiance to the Reich (p. 18,19).