

GOERING QUESTIONS

*your policy upon
the subject exists since
23 November 1945 / that
question*

in order

A. Not exactly in these words you have used - the armament was independent of these reasons. The primary purpose was to make it possible to meet. It would still be necessary to rearm whether or not there existed the question of Austria, Sudeten or Danzig. Re-armament was necessary independent of these aims. We would have re-armed because of the position of Germany in the center of Europe. Germany had to be strong either to be aggressive or defensive depending on circumstances. But apart from the question of war, economic, consolidation would have been necessary. We did not have enough gold or enough foreign exchange to buy as we wished in foreign markets.

But the premise of any foreign policy was to be equal to our neighbors because it stood for a strong Germany, re-armament and concentration of ~~political~~ *economic power* that ~~was why~~ I joined the party.

When we talked of re-armament and economic policy, both would have happened irrespective of the ~~Austrian and other questions~~ or if there had been no danger of war from Russia. *even if there had been no questions*

But you held
But obviously these problems did exist as did the danger of war with Russia.

*no
danger
had
1932*

And you had already stated in 1936, had you not, that war between Russia and Germany was inevitable? And even before that - would you say 1932 - you held that view?

Hitler agreed with you?

These thoughts were in your mind when you took charge of the Four Year Plan?

You never hesitated to state them openly and publically?

Do you doubt that the defendents here have heard you say so?

And so you will better understand the reason and purpose of my acts, let me explain to you. I adhered to Hitler not only because of my oath. I tied my destiny to that man and when I go down I shall still be loyal to him. I have many honors, but my greatest title was given by the German people, when they called me "the most loyal Palladin of the ~~people's~~ Fuhrer". My popularity consisted in comparison with other men in the party - I was not a radical - nor was I a brutal man.

you
No matter what he did for me I never would have raised my hand against him or plotted against him.

To me it was entirely uninteresting whether he was right or wrong. Once he decided his decision I accepted even though I may have argued to the contrary. That was the practice I followed, and in that I will continue even if I am condemned to die.

Deep in my heart the last two times when he changed toward me I had bitter conflicts. I had to endure during that period the constant spying upon me and maneuvers against me of Himmler, who had set up a state within a state, the backbiting and lies about me by Bormann who was constantly with Hitler, and the jealous enmity of Goebbles.

And all this changed Hitler towards me. At the end of 42 my bad days began. We had differences in the use of the Air Corps. Tensions developed between us which never existed before - they did not appear on the surface, but they were there.

In 1944 the decline was rapid, and in 1945 I felt he detested me. The basic cause was his insistence that we should make full application of our Air Forces in every theater of war. During this period I suffered deep humiliation in his presence and the presence of others because of his attacks upon me. But I would not reply to him in public and often I would wonder if I could endure it any longer. But then I remembered that my successor would be Goebbles or Himmler or even Bormann who was the lowest and worst of all. I could not let them rule the German people, and so I stayed on.

Hitler had such a nature he always had to look for someone upon whom he could place the blame.