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

DOCUMENT ROOM INTERROGATION ANALYSIS

WITNESS: VON RIBBENTROP  
BY : Col. Brundage

DATE : 29 Aug. 45 1030 - 1200  
PLACE: Nurnberg

NAME HEADINGS: HITLER, RIBBENTROP

INDEX HEADINGS: AGGRESSIVE WAR - Pre-1937  
PREPARATIONS FOR WAR - Diplomatic, Military

Witness was an international businessman, and in 1932, he felt that Germany was going to ruin, and that the only way to prevent civil war and chaos was to support the patriotic front, in which were Nationalists and Nazis. (5) He discusses throughout this interrogation German policy towards the Jews and the Churches, matters in which he claims to have taken a more moderate view than the Fuehrer, but is not sufficiently specific to prove more than that there was a policy against Jews and Churches, and that Hitler became more and more rabid on the Jewish question as time went on. (16) Witness first met Hitler in August 1932 at the Berghof, where he went, at the suggestion of a Nazi friend, Helldorf, in an effort to bring about an understanding between Hitler and Papen. (5) First official position held was "Commissioner for Disarmament" (9). After disarmament conference Hitler decided to leave the League of Nations because he was not willing to wait eight years for equality in armaments (10). Witness had what he describes as a "difficult conversation" with Hitler in 1941, and at that time made a promise to be loyal (23) and witness intends to remain true to this promise, at least to the extent that he does "not want to stand before the German people as being disloyal to the Fuehrer". (24).