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

Interrogation of von RIBBENTROP, Joachim
By: Colonel John H. Amen, 4. October 1945 Nuremberg, P.M.

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

- 1. von RIBBENTROP
 - a) Killing of Allied aviators. (pp.16-34)
 - 1) Documents No.736-PS, 740-PS, 519-PS, 520-PS, 728 PS.
 - b) Killing of Soviet prisoners (34, 35)
 - c) Propaganda among prisoners of war
 - 1) Document No. 273-PS (36-40)
 - d) Shackling of British prisoners of war
 - 1) Document No. 827-PS (36-40)

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS.

Questioned on the authenticity of document No.736-PS, dated -6 June 1944 (marked for identification as Exhibit "A", 4 October 1945 - Ribbentrop), bearing on the order to kill allied airmen and implicating him beyond doubt, he said " I don't remember it but it must be true" (P 16 -26)

He admitted the authentic and official character of the following documents bearing on the killing of allied aviators:

- (a) Documents No. 728-PS (Marked for identification as Exhibit "B", 4. October 1945 - Ribbentrop);
- (b) Document No. 740-PS (Marked for identification as Exhibit "C" 4. October 1945 - Ribbentrop);
- (c) Documents Nos. 519-PS and 520-PS (Marked for identification as Exhibits "G" and "H", 4. October 1945 - Ribbentrop) (See Page 23-33 and 43-45), but did not remember the facts mentioned therein.

Regarding the proposal that all Soviet prisoners of war should be considered to be outside of the provisions of the Geneva Conference, it was an order of the Fuehrer's which he had opposed (P.34). Knew nothing of the order to kill all Soviet prisoners of war at the time, he merely heard that " certain amounts have been killed". (p.35)

Relative to Document No 273-PS (Marked for identification as Exhibit "D", 4. October 1945 - Ribbentrop) re: propoganda among the prisoners of war, and Document No. 827-PS (Marked for identification as Exhibit "E" 4 October 1945 - Ribbentrop) re: Shackling of British prisoners of war, he said the documents are authentic but he did not remember the details therein. He may have committed a breach of the Geneva Convention, but he wasn't sure. (P.36-40).

von Ribbentrop, 4 October 1945

He did not recall the publication of a "White Book" explaining the invasions of Belgium and Holland, one which the defendant wanted Keitel to sign and which the latter refused to sign because he said it contained falsifications. However, if a "White Book" was issued, it was undoubtedly issued by the Foreign Office. Confronted with Document No. 790-PS (Marked for identification as Exhibit "F", 4 October 1945 - Ribbentrop), containing the phrase "The Chief of OKW has objections to these falsifications; he is nevertheless prepared to sign a modified document", he replied he had "not the slightest" reason to question the authenticity of the document, though "I don't know it at all" (P.40-43).

On Austria, Ribbentrop recalled he met with Hitler and Schuschnigg in Berchtesgaden, but denied he and Papen had presented to Schuschnigg certain specific demands. "The whole Austrian question was handled by the Fuehrer personally", and "Papen was directing the whole Austrian business". Some demand was made, not by him, about the technical coordination of the German and Austrian armies and an exchange of officers. He did not even remember that he eventually signed the document (P.27-55).

Regarding Poland, Ribbentrop didn't remember any conversation with the Fuehrer at his train in the middle of the Polish campaign, relative to action against that country as soon as the perspective victory was obtained. In this connection, he denied he knew General Lahousen, although he remembered and claimed not to remember such conversations with Canaris, Keitel, and Jodl. (P.56-58).