

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of FRITZ SAUCKEL

21 September 1945, A.M. Nuremberg
By: Major J.J. Menigan

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. SAUCKEL
 - a. Recruiting war industry laborers in Germany - "Oktoberaktion" (p.1,2)
 - b. Efforts for better feeding and treatment of foreign laborers (p.3, 5, 7,8)
 - (1) Goetz as a witness on his behalf (p.5)
 - c. Negotiations with Keitel's mobilization units (p.6)
2. SPEER
 - a. Conflict with Sauckel over labor allocation (p.2,6,7,13)
 - b. Conflict with Wehrmacht mobilization officials over draft exemptions (6,7)
3. GOEBBELS
 - a. As Plenipotentiary for total war mobilization (p.11)
 - (1) Meeting of the Gremium with Lammers, Keitel, Himmler, Bormann, Goebbels, General Weidemann (p.8-11)

RECRUITING OF WAR INDUSTRY LABOR

The "Stillegungsaktion" initiated by Speer mustered 90,000 workers for war industries (1). Sauckel initiated the "Oktoberaktion" which succeeded in getting another 450,000 workers in Oct. and Nov. 1943 (1). In Oct. 1944 the same type of recruiting netted 250,000 workers (2).

Goebbels and Speer accused Sauckel of being too bureaucratic (2), because he kept a careful account of every German and Foreign worker (3). Accused him of being too lenient with German women and foreign workers (3).

Arranged conference in Weimar 1943 for all his branch offices (4). Proposed feeding foreign workers correctly (4) and sent Goetz to Hungary and Rumania to purchase food (5).

Claims that Goetz could testify as a witness for him (5) "because he knew my views so very well" (5).

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WAR INDUSTRY VS. WEHRMACHT MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS

Negotiated with mobilization units directly under Field Marshal Keitel (6). Throughout the war there were always 6,000,000 men in Germany who "were stated as essential and therefore kept out of the army". (6) 2,000,000 of them were used by Speer (6). 600,000 of these were fit for Wehrmacht duties (6). Mobilization officials pointed out that Goebbels also kept members of the Wehrmacht from Army duty (6). General Unruh and Wehrmacht officers were reprimanded for making above analysis (1).

Sauckel published "Manifesto for Arbeitseinsatz" in April 1943 (7) contained sharply worded statement directed toward Speer, Goebbels, the Reichsmarschal, and Fuehrer (7) Advocated better treatment for foreign workers (7) Hummler attacked Sauckel for praising the DAF officials (8). The Gremium also attacked Sauckel (8).

PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR TOTAL WAR MOBILIZATION

The Gremium decided to propose the creation of a plenipotentiary for the "Totale Kriegseinsatz" (8). Present at this meeting were Lamers, Keitel, Himmler, Bormann, General Weidemann, Goebbels, Tidman, Beck (9) Goebbels proposed himself as plenipotentiary for "Total Kriegseinsatz". Keitel thanked him for taking over this office (10). Speer remained silent at the conference. (11) The next day Keitel reported to Hitler that Goebbels was recommended for the position of plenipotentiary for Total War Mobilization. (11)

Goebbels caused a law to appear under Sauckel's signature in relation to "Scheinerbeit" - an attempt to pretend work duties (12). Accuses Speer of hoarding manpower reserve useable in the Wehrmacht (13).