

*Seyss-Inquart*

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: SEYSS-INQUART, Arthur  
By: Mr. Thomas Dodd, 18 September 1945, a.m.

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Persons implicated and subjects:

I. SEYSS-INQUART, Arthur

1. Relationship with Party (p.11).
2. Political position (p.7)
  - a. In Austria after Schuschnigg's resignation (pp.12,16).
3. Acquisition of Austria
  - a. Planning (p.2).
  - b. Hitler's part (p.2).
  - c. Goering's part (pp.2,3).
  - d. Threat of military invasion (pp.4,5).
  - e. Political tricks -- story about "unrest" in Austria (pp.8,9,10).
  - f. Violation of agreement "12th February" (p.3).
  - g. Counter action against plebiscite (p.6).
  - h. Role of Schuschnigg (pp. 2,3,4,10).
  - i. Role of Glaise-Horstenau (pp. 2,3,5).
  - j. Role of Skubl and Kaltenbrunner (pp. 13,14,15).
  - k. Tavs plan (pp.16,18,19).

Events on the 11 March 1938 beginning with a letter from Hitler to Seyss-Inquart ordering him to present to Schuschnigg an ultimatum from the German Government pertaining to the planned plebiscite in Austria are set forth (pages 1-7). In a subsequent telephone conversation with Goering the "agreement of the 12th of February" is cancelled and demands are made by Goering for the resignation of Schuschnigg and the nomination of Seyss-Inquart to the Bundes Chancellory. Mention is made that it was brought to Schuschnigg's attention that military preparations were being initiated in Germany (p.4). He admits receiving an Order from Hitler while he was still a member of the Cabinet in Free and Independent Austria. Mention is made of a telegram sent to the German Government with Seyss-Inquart's knowledge and over his name which reads: "The provisional government because of unrest that has just broken out in Austria requests the assistance of the Reich". Seyss-Inquart emphasizes the fact that there was no unrest (page 8) and is then interrogated in detail about the telegram (p.9).

Reference is made to a radio address in which Seyss-Inquart stated that he still retained the functions of Minister of Interior and Minister of Security, and expected the civilian population to keep order and not resist German troops and referred to the Austrian National Socialists as "Parteigenossen" (Party Comrades) although he denies having been a member of the Party, then he admitted to being

called a "sympathizing member", having made contributions and later did not receive any rank because of his previous services. (pages 11,12). The forming of a "provisional government" is discussed as well as the roles of Skubl and Kaltenbrunner (pages 12-15).

The remainder of the interrogation deals with the "Tavs conspiracy" discovered in January 1938, making mention of the "Committee of Seven" and of the "unofficially tolerated Headquarters of the illegal Nazi Party in Vienna" in the Teinfalstrasse.