

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Seyss-Inquart
By: Mr Thoma J Dodd, 9 October 1945, P M. Nuremberg.

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

1 SEYSS-INQUART

a. Austrian ANSCHLUSS

- (1) Dealings with Hitler involving Austria's internal affairs (p 1, 3, 14, 15)
- (2) Telephone call to Goering on 11 March 1938 (p-16)
- (3) Demand for Schuschnigg abdication (p 15)
- (4) Dealings with Kepler and assumption of power (p-6,7)
- (5) Pressure on Mikas to appoint him chancellor (p-8, 15)
- (6) Telephone call to Hitler for troops (p-9)

b. Austrian Chancellor:

- (1) Approved annexation (P, 11, 19)
- (2) Why Germans preferred him as Chancellor (p-13)

c. Appointed Reichsstatthalter (p-17)

d. Assistant to Governor of Poland (p-20)

e. Appointed Governor General of Holland

- (1) Admits mistakes (p-22)
- (2) Forced labor (P-23, 24, 25)

SEYSS-INQUART 9 October 1945 PM.

In March 1938 Seyss-Inquart had dealings with Hitler involving internal affairs of Austria and he conveyed Hitler's conditions to Schuschnigg (1, 3, 14, 15). On 11 March 1938 he conducted negotiations from Vienna with Goering and other Nazi officials in Berlin, by telephone and telegraph, which finally led to his delivering an ultimatum to Schuschnigg (16) demanding the latter's abdication (15). He continued conducting government business with Kepler and other Nazis after Schuschnigg's abdication knowing that he was then only "the Minister of the Interior of a cabinet that had resigned", (6, 7) and before he was appointed chancellor. He is evasive about questions whether he pressed for his appointment but concedes he knew that pressure was being exerted on Miklas from various sides (8) and that he, Seyss-Inquart, must be made chancellor (15), as he had told Schuschnigg.

His first act after being appointed was to call Hitler on the telephone and ask him to send troops into Austria (9). He put the formal government seal of approval on the occupation and annexation of Austria for which he had planned and worked for a long time (11). He knew that the Germans had picked, not Ender, but him as a Chancellor because they thought he would not resist (13). - On 15 March 1945 he was made Reichsstatthalter by the Germans and held this office until 1 May 1939 (17). He was glad about the junction of the two countries and therefore willing to overlook the many bad things done to Austria (19).

Seyss-Inquart accepted assignment as assistant to the Governor General Frank in Poland because he was always willing to serve the Germans (20). He has no regrets about his conduct in regard to Austria and takes full responsibility (20). He thinks he does not have to be ashamed of any action in Poland (22). He is conscious that he made grave mistakes in Holland as Governor General and knew about excesses committed there (22). He issued orders in Holland forcing the male population between the ages of 17 and 40 to work in Germany under threat of death penalty and under inhuman regulations of details (23, 24, 25).