

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: SPEER, Albert

By: Major John J. Monigan, Jr., 11 October 1945, p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. SPEER
 - a. Removal of Jews from industries (p. 1)
 - b. OT auxiliary to Armed Forces (p. 3)
 - c. OT recruited personnel independently (p. 4)
 - d. Introduction of blocked plants in France (p. 8)
 - e. Documents re removal of Jews from industries (p. 9, 10)
2. SAUCKEL
 - a. His relation to conscription of Jews (p. 3,5,6)
3. NIKOLAI
 - a. Can furnish information on Jewish question regarding their removal from industries (p. 2)
4. SHMELTER
 - a. Recruited personnel for OT (p. 4)

questioned concerning a paper mentioning a conference between him and the Reichsfuehrer SS on "the problem of evacuating from German hands certain of the Jews who were there employed."

(1) Maintains that it was his desire to keep Jews in factories, but "it was a political decision that had to be removed."

(2) Refers to a directive issued by the Reich Chief of the Party Chancellory authorizing the continued employment of Jews, being contained in the documents "Information to Factory Leaders". Suggests that Colonel von Nikolai could supply information concerning the removal of Jews from all industry as a result of the new order whether "directly by the individual industries with the local employment offices, or through the chain of command with the Arbeitsamteinsatz.

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Concerning the OT and its differing with Sauckel's activities in the conscription of foreign workers, he maintains that the "OT occupied the position of auxiliary to the armed forces," and therefore required a special "Frontfuehrung". The OT was always subordinate to the local senior office of the Wehrmacht". "In technical matters they were independent." (3) "The OT recruited their personnel independently of any quotas." (4) Schmiedter had the task of recruiting personnel for the OT (4). The OT only operated in foreign countries, where as similar functions were carried out in Germany by Amt Bau.

Sauckel did not accept the decision of the Central Planning Agency in the allocation of foreign workers (5). "Sauckel promised everyone what they wanted", and sent false reports to Hitler about numbers supplied (6). Spoke to Hitler several times to get his required quota, but insists that he was in favor of using foreign labor "on the spot" (6).

In cooperation with Bichedounce, Speer claims to have been successful in introducing "blocked plants" in France which would produce consumer goods (8) thereby preventing Sauckel from shipping workers from these plants to Germany. This also included French Railway workers (8). The "blocked plant" system was also used in Belgium, Holland, and Italy (9).

Points to Milch and Kaltenbrunner as witnesses to the truth of his desire to keep Jews in Berlin industrial enterprises (9). He points out that he wants to give us the benefit of reading the documents (10) which were given to the "USSOBS", and mentions that only part of his records got to Kranzburg.