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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

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RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH

Region: J 1 b, J 1 a

BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

Occupation: GA, 25D  
28

Political  
Attitude, 13

Name: WINKLER, Max

Nationality: German

Region: Berlin

Positions: Director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost under the Four Year  
Plan Office,

Partner (persönlich haftender Gesellschafter) of the Deutscher  
Verlag, Berlin,

Reichsbeauftragter für die Deutsche Filmindustrie (Reich Commissioner  
for the German movie industry),

Head of the holding company of UFA-Filma GmbH,

Member of the Advisory Board of the Deutsche Reichsbank,

SS Sturmabannführer,

Birth date and place: 7 September 1875.

Work and Political History: An SS-Officer and ex-mayor of Lodz (Litzmannstadt) in German occupied Poland, Winkler has played an important part in the economic exploitation of Poland in his capacity as director of the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost in the Four Year Plan Office. The Haupttreuhandstelle Ost was the receiver of all property confiscated from the Polish state and from Polish citizens after the German occupation. By the middle of 1941 it had taken over thousands of commercial and industrial enterprises in Posen and Lodz (Litzmannstadt), and was responsible (with the consent of Himmler, who as Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the German Race exercises ultimate authority,) for the transfer of a large share of the industrial undertakings and mines of Upper Silesia to such German interests as the Göring combine and the Ballestrem and Schaffgotsch concerns.

In addition the Haupttreuhandstelle Ost acquired vast holdings of land confiscated from its Polish owners (about 73,000 pieces of landed property by 1941), turning them over to German settlers or keeping them for soldiers after the war.

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Winkler likevd.se profited from the "axyaniaation" of Jevdsh property in Germany. He v/as partner (persdnllch haftender Gesellschafter) of the Deutschor Verlag, which took over the properties of the fomer Jewish ovmed Ullstein Verlag, one of the largest and most prosperous publishing firms in Germany. The Deutscher Verlag in turn was controlled by the Eher Verlag, publishers of the Völkischer Beobachter., " ovmed by Hitler, Aroann and other top Nazis, Yfinkler is said to have served as agent (Strohmann) in the purchase of the Eher Verlag for the Nasi FarEyT The Eher Verlag absorbed many Jewish and anti-Nazi publishing concerns. 7,'inkler also acted as Deputy for Goebbels and Amann in the administration of Nazi newspapers (ffiavffiragter ftir\_die wirtschaftliche leikung der Zeitun^3yerlSg^u"

YJinkler

Another field in -which/played an important part was the film industry\* He was Reichsbeauftragter fiir die Deutsche Filmindustrie (Reich Commissioner for the German Film industry) and head of the holding company jDachgesellschaft) of JJFA-Film GmbH largest German movie producers v.'hich have flourished under Nazi auspices. Vtfnkler is said to have contributed considerably to the monopolization of the German film industry.

V/inkler was a member of the 'Advisory Board (Beirat) of the Deutsche Reich3banko This appointment, as well as ail his 'others, **Winkler** undoubtedly owed to his good standing in the Nazi Party.

As director of the Haupttreutandstelle Ost under the Four Year Plan Office Winkler has played an impox^tant part in the economic exploitation of Polish territories, and has shared in the formulation of German economic policy in regard to conquered territories. He has likewise profited from the "aryanization" of Jewish property in Germany. He has had considerably influence in Nasi publishing enterprises and in the German movie industry.

OSS R & A 1010, 25 July U>U|.  
 OSS Source S, 10 August 19h3.  
 OSS source S, 26 April 1?1;3  
 Y/tp is Who in Nazi Germany, 19hh-

1 Hay 1?1f.

This record is a summary of such intelligence (from one or more sources as indicated) as was available at the tiros of preparation. It may consequently be subject to amendnsnt by additional or more recent intelligence. Index number;; and letters are solely for indexing statements in the report.

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