

C O P Y

(OCC letterhead)

5 October 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR JUSTICE JACKSON

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SUBJECT: German Nationals as Potential Witnesses

We have just discovered that the following German Nationals are present in Washington in the custody of G-2. After a cursory examination of the information and material available we are sending this with the idea that some or all of these men might possibly be of value either as witnesses or as potential sources of information during the time of the trials.

1. Emil von Rintelen, Ambassador at Large

Von Rintelen has been with the German Foreign Office since 1921. From 1923 to 1928, Secretary in the German Embassy in Paris. From 1928 to 1932 he was Legation Councillor at Warsaw, Poland. From 1932 to 1935 he was in Berlin as head of the Western European Section for eight years and then three years as head of the Political Section of the Foreign Office. For the last two years he has been publishing a weekly top secret report "Auslaendische Informationen". During the time that von Rintelen was in office in Berlin he was familiar with practically all of the dispatches which passed across Ribbentrop's desk and could be of particular value. According to the Interrogation Officer, von Rintelen would be of extreme value and furthermore is very willing to testify at the trial. We are inclosing four G-2 interrogation reports on von Rintelen. However, G-2 feels that because of the extensive and detailed knowledge which this man has about the problems in which we are most interested, they feel that it is necessary to either have every detailed question should this man be not sent to you for questioning.

2. Gen. der Flieger Ulrich Kessler

From 1916 to 1933 Kessler was an officer in the German Navy. From 1935 to 1944 he was an officer in the Air Forces and at present has the rank of Lieutenant General. Aside from the fact that this man has detailed technical knowledge, he would be of value because of the important part which he played in the development of the Luftwaffe. In addition to that fact, he was aware of the camouflaged operations which hid the actual purpose of the training of fliers. In 1933 he was a member of the Disarmament Conference. In 1938 Goering asked Kessler if he wished to have the job of Chief of the General Staff of the Air Fleet which he had built up to fight England for him. An argument ensued between Goering and Kessler during which Kessler stated that since America would be behind England and the world would be behind America he did not feel as though he should accept the position. Goering stated that he would then be unable to use him. We are inclosing two interrogation reports on Kessler. Interrogation Officer is of the opinion that Kessler would be willing to testify at the trials.

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3. Lt. Colonel Herman von Raumer

No written interrogation reports are available for this man. However, after a short conversation with the Interrogation Officer the following information is available: That he was the author of the "Anti-Comintern Pact" and as such did the analysis of the problems, and the preparation of the documents at the request of Hitler. He was, from 1933 to 1938, head of Bureau Ribbentrop and as such held the position of First Legation Counsel and subsequently ambassador at large. He was booked to take Ribbentrop's place while Ribbentrop was in England. According to the Interrogation Officer, Raumer is very willing to testify and willing to be of any service during the coming trials.

4. Gustav Hilger

It was of Hilger that Stalin said "German heads of State and German Ambassadors to Moscow came and went, but Gustav Hilger remained". He spent 46 of his 59 years in Russia, 17 of which as a child and a school boy, 4 as an engineer, 4 as a civilian internee, 3 as a Relief and Repatriation official, and 18 as a member of the German Embassy Staff in Moscow. Hilger was a close and shrewd observer of the fundamental changes which took place in the Russian political and economic life as well as the Russian national character during the period of the two wars. From the information that we have, Hilger was thoroughly acquainted with the trade negotiations with Russia. He acted as official interpreter at the Moscow meeting between Molotov, Ribbentrop and Stalin and is perhaps more acquainted with the demands which Germany made of Russia than any other person. The value of this man at the trials as a source and countercheck for information would be, according to the Interrogation Officer, of particular value. There is one caution that might be stated at this time and that is the possible complications which might result from his testimony. According to the Interrogation Officer again, this man is willing to testify or be of any assistance at the trials.

As was previously stated these men are now in the custody of G-2 and we shall await either a request for the transportation of some or all of these men to Nuremberg or detailed questions which would be most pertinent at this time.

More information concerning these prisoners can be obtained from Captain Adolph Wulff who accompanied Wiedeman to Nuremberg.

/s/ John W. Griggs
Lt. Col. A.C.
Officer in Charge

Inclosures listed on attached page

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Inclousres - Interrogation Report

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