

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR
WAR CRIMES

MILITARY TRIBUNAL

No. VI

CASE No. VI

DOCUMENT No. N1-6768

PROSECUTION EXHIBIT

No. 437

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(Place) Nuernberg, Germany

(Date) 10 Sept 47

CERTIFICATE

I, A B Blackwood of the Evidence Division of the
Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes, hereby certify that
the attached document, consisting of

20 (typewritten
photostated pages and entitled
(mimeographed
(handwritten

*N1-6768-1. Interrogation of I.G.F.'s Carl Krauch
re: Authenticity of document of former interrogation
dated 29 Apr 47, is (the original
of a document which
was delivered to me in my above capacity, in the usual course
of official business, as (the original
of a document found
in German archives, records and files captured by military
forces under the command of the Supreme Commander, Allied
Expeditionary Forces.*

To the best of my knowledge, information and belief,
the original Document is held at: *OCCWC*

A B Blackwood

Vernehmung des Carl KRAUCH, am 22. April 1947
durch Mr. C h a r m a t z, nachmittags.
Weitere Anwesende: Annalie Aigner, German Court Reporter.

F.: Herr KRAUCH, Sie sind sich bewusst, dass Sie noch unter Eid stehen?

A.: Jawohl.

F.: Ich uebergebe Ihnen zuerst den Rest des Affidavits ueber die Entwicklung der Stickstoff- und Benzinherzeugung. Wollen Sie es bitte sorgfaeltig durchlesen und die notwendigen Aenderungen mit Tinte vornehmen und dann unterschreiben?

Weiter uebergebe ich Ihnen die zwei Protokolle vom 21. und 22. April abends, mit der Bitte, es durchzulesen.

A.: (Herr KRAUCH liest die Eidesstattliche Erklaerung und unterzeichnet sie.)

F.: Herr KRAUCH, wir haben gestern schon kurz davon gesprochen, dass Sie im September 1945 verschiedene male vernommen worden sind, von den Vernehmungen auch Protokolle aufgenommen worden sind. Und zwar handelt es sich um eine Vernehmung vom 20. September 1945, betreffend Ihre Stellung im Vierjahresplan, eine Vernehmung vom 27. September 1945, betreffend die Vermittlungsstelle ^{und} Wob-Plaene, eine weitere Vernehmung am gleichen Tag, betreffend Buna und eine Vernehmung vom 28. September 1945 ueber Ihre Berufstaetigkeit und Ihre Arbeit im Vierjahresplan. All diese Protokolle, die in englischer Sprache abgefasst sind, sind von Ihnen eigenhaendig unterschrieben und tragen den Vermerk:

I have read this record of interrogation and I swear that the answers given by me to the questions of Mr. Glazer (Messrs. Glazer and Purcello) are true.

Ich uebergebe Ihnen hier die Photocopien der Originaldokumente und bitte Sie, diese durchzupruefen und mir zu bestaetigen, dass diese eine wahre und richtige Wiedergabe Ihrer damaligen Vernehmung unter Eid darstellen. Ich bitte Sie ferner, mit Ihrer Unterschrift und Datum auf der Rueckseite dieser Photocopy die Tatsache der Richtigkeit und Echtheit zu bestaetigen. Lesen Sie es bitte sorgfaeltig durch und geben mir allfaellige Bemerkungen ins Protokoll.

Handwritten signature

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-A.: (Herr HÄNDEL liest sorgfältig durch und zeichnet die Rückseite der ihm vorgelegten Fotokopien der Vernehmung mit Unterschrift und Datum.)

Die vorgelegten Protokolle geben die Vernehmungen wieder, die von den Herren der Frankfurter CIC im September 1945 in meiner Wohnung zu Falkengesäss bei Bährfelden im Odenwald vorgenommen wurden. Da ich selbst nur mangelhaft englisch spreche und die Unterhaltung in englischer Sprache geführt wurde, wurde mir nach Schluss der Vernehmung einzelne Fragen vorgelegt, die ich in deutsch zu beantworten hatte und die dann durch den Dolmetscher übersetzt wurden. Ausserdem hatte ich gegen Schluss der Vernehmungen eine längere Denkschrift, in der noch einmal alle diese behandelten Fragen erörtert wurden, abzufassen, die von meiner Sekretarin in englischer Sprache übersetzt wurden.

Eine Woche nach den Vernehmungen kamen die selben Herren noch einmal zu mir, in Begleitung eines Dr. RITCHIE. Die Besprechungen dauerten noch einen Tag. Auch darüber wurde von den Herren ein Protokoll abgefasst. In dieser Besprechung wurde noch einmal die ganze Materie in grossen Linien besprochen. Beim Lesen der Vernehmungsprotokolle sind mir einige Punkte aufgefallen, die zu Unklarheiten Veranlassung geben könnten.

Auf Seite 1 der Vernehmung vom 20. September 1945 ist von mir erwähnt, dass die Finanzierung des Ausbaues der Vierjahresplan Fabriken durch die Reichsbank erfolgte. In Wirklichkeit wurden die Finanzierungsverhandlungen durch das Wirtschaftsministerium geführt.

Auf Seite 2 wurde ich gefragt nach den sogenannten Mob-Plänen. Ich erwähnte, dass ich das Wort Mob-Zahlen zum erstenmale in 1938 in der Sitzung, als ich Generalbevollmächtigter wurde, gehört habe. GOERING frag mich nach den Friedensproduktionszahlen in den verschiedenen Produkten. Dann wollte er die Mob-Zahlen wissen, die Produktionen, die fuer den Fall eines Krieges in den Werken vorgesehen waren. Ich erwiderte ihm, dass ich annehme, dass diese Zahlen gleich den Friedensproduktionszahlen seien, da ja Benzin und Stickstoff im Krieg genau so gebraucht

Heuer

wurden, wie im Frieden, also, dass die Werke mit derselben Produktion weiterlaufen wurden. Es stellte sich später heraus, dass diese Annahme, was den Stickstoff anbetrifft, von mir falsch war, denn nach Ausbruch des Krieges erhielt die I.G. ein Telegramm vom Wirtschaftsministerium, dass ihre Werke Ludwigshafen und Oppau ^{und der Hohenlohe} sofort stillzulegen seien, womit die Hälfte der Stickstoffproduktion der I.G. ausfiel:

F.: Die Stilllegung von Ludwigshafen und Oppau ist ja aber nicht wirklich erfolgt?

A.: Von der I.G.-Industrie wurde beim OKW Einspruch erhoben gegen diesen Beschluss des Wirtschaftsministeriums. Es stellte sich heraus, dass dieser Beschluss gefasst war, weil man annahm, dass die Franzosen die Fabrik unter Feuer nehmen würden. Man kam dann zu dem Beschluss, zu warten, bis dieses Ereignis eintreten würde.

F.: Wie lange hat man denn da gewartet? Wie lange ist die Produktion dann stillgelegt?

A.: Mit Genehmigung des OKW lief die Produktion weiter, aber der offizielle Beschluss, die Fabrik nicht stillzulegen, kam erst einige Monate später.

F.: Sind Ludwigshafen und Oppau überhaupt jemals einen Tag stillgelegt?

A.: Nein. Aber das Telegramm lag vor, dass es stillgelegt werden sollte.

Aus dem Protokoll vom 27. September, Seite 2: Die Vermittlungsstelle, die Anfragen von Seiten der Ministerien an mich weitergeben sollte, wurde im Jahre 1930, als die Zollverhandlungen mit dem Finanzministerium akut wurden, eingerichtet und durch einen Kaufmann, KRASTEL, ^{geleitet} unterrichtet. Im Jahre 1932 wurde der Name "Vermittlungsstelle" offiziell genannt.

F.: Was heisst: offiziell genannt?

A.: Er erschien in Organisationsplänen.

F.: Diese Vermittlungsstelle war aber Ihr Büro, d.h., das Büro des Herrn KRAUCH, Führer der Sparte I.?

A.: Ja, die Vermittlungsstelle hat mit anderen Sparten nichts zu

tun gehabt. Im Jahre 1935 wurde auch fuer andere Sparten, Ter Meer und Gajewski, einzelne Bueros eingerichtet und als "Vermittlungsstelle W" bezeichnet.

27. September nachmittags, Seite 2: SCHNEIDER uebernahm schon ab 1936 inoffiziell die Fuehrung und meine Vertretung der Sparte I, um mich zu entlasten.

Seite 2: ich wurde gefragt, ob Dr. BOSCH in der selben freundlichen Haltung die ganze Zeit mir gegenueber war, seit meiner Taetigkeit im Vierjahresplan. Er billigte absolut meine Taetigkeit dort, nur war er staendig der Meinung, dass ich zu viel Arbeit auf mich geladen haette und mich mehr entlasten sollte.

In der gleichen Vernehmung wurde auch die Bedeutung der Vermittlungsstelle besprochen. Die Vermittlungsstelle ist nur als ein untergeordnetes Organ der Spartenfuehrung zu betrachten, das keineswegs in der Lage war, selbstaendig irgendwelche Entscheidungen, auch Anfragen, zu beantworten.

Das ist alles.

Ich habe die 4 (vier) Seiten meiner Vernehmung vom 29. April 1947 sorgfaeltig durchgelesen, die notwendigen Korrekturen in meiner eigenen Handschrift vorgenommen und eigenhaendig gegengezeichnet und erklære hiermit unter Eid, dass dieses Protokoll eine wahrheitsgetreue Wiedergabe meiner Vernehmung darstellt.

Nuernberg, den 1. Mai 1947

Carl Krauch

(Carl KRAUCH)

J.P. Clarys
(Interrogator)

Annelie Digner
(Court Reporter)

20 September 1945
Thursday AM 10:30 to 11:30

Interrogation of Karl Krauch

Q What is your name?

A Karl Krauch

Q What is your profession?

A Chemist.

Q What position do you hold in I. G. and other concerns?

A Chairman of the board of directors of I. G. Farbenindustrie, and I am also second chairman of the American Ford Company.

Q Is that the Ford Works in Cologne?

A Yes. This was in 1940

Q What position did you first hold with respect to Goering's four year plan?

A I was in Rohstoff und Devisenstab. Later, it was named Reichsamt für Wirtschaftsaufbau.

Q So that it was merely a change of the name, of what you were in charge of?

A Yes. That was merely a change of the name.

Q That took place in 1936?

A Yes. That was about 1936, I should say. That was the business of the money that was coming to the Reichsbank. Reichsamt has only to do with the industrial building of the plants and not with money.

Q Now, will you describe to me what your duties consisted of with reference to your first job with the four year plan?

A I was the manager of the department of research and development. In the Rohstoff und Devisenstab, I had to look for new processes, to build up raw material in Germany which had to be imported before. To give you an example, there was benzine, buna and artificial silk and artificial fibre, etcetera.

Q Will you give me the reason for your employment by Goering, and the reason that

136 Dr. Bosch and the ^{16.} Reich allowed you to go in 1936?

A That was a question I had talked over with Major Leeb. That was in the first place, a question of unemployment. We had to do with the building up of new plants in order to employ as many unemployed workers in Germany as we could. We built up motor roads, and we had no benzine for the motors. Then, we had ^{WE} no business for the workers. Then he said if you are doing this towards the rearmament and thus employing so many workers, we are only working in the so-called 'dead money', business. We were asked whether we had any new processes that could be built up at this time, any new ^{FACTORIES AND} laboratories to employ these workers.

Q What was Dr. Bosch's reaction with reference to the request for your services?

136 A He said we ^{HAD} must help ^{THE} existing government with this unemployment question and that now we must do the same thing for the new government.

The second thing was, as you may know, the intention of the National Socialist government, about the big concerns. You know, the point of the party program now published, the smashing of the concerns, in the first place that of I. G. Farbenindustrie. Maybe they would make some theoretical things, today this and tomorrow another, and the end will be the destroying of our big chemical industry without this nonsense. If you sit at that place, perhaps you can avoid such nonsense as this.

Q At that time that Dr. Bosch realized that the Nazi Party might want to destroy I. G. Farbenindustrie, did he likewise realize that the Nazi Government was heading towards war?

A S rely not. In the circumstances, he said to me that it is much better that they are going to industrial consumption, rather than to build airplanes and engines of war.

Q In other words, Dr. Bosch realized that until that time, the Nazi machine had been making airplanes, U-boats and other re-armaments. He felt that your contribution would be directed towards an industrialization program?

A Yes.

Q Putting it a different way, in 1936, it was clear to you and I. G. Farben that the German government at that time was in the process of rearmament?

A Yes. They were talking quite openly about the rearmament program.

Q Was it clear to you that when they desired to use any new processes that you had, let us say, Buna and Hydrogenation, that those commodities were a type that could be and would be necessary for the conduct of the war?

A Yes.

Q During the time that you worked for Goering, what was the exact nature of your relationship with I. G., insofar as keeping them informed as to what your activities were, and what the activities of the four year plan were?

A I was talking with the I. G. people about the processes we needed in the four year plan.

Q Did you keep in as close touch with them as you had before you took this job? Were you in constant contact with them?

A No. I made my separation between my business as Verstand member, and between my business with the men of the four year plan project. If we had to build hydrogenation plants with both the I. G. process and the Fischer process, I would talk with I. G. people about their process and not about Fischer's process, and I talked with the Fischer people about their, and not the I. G. process.

Q With respect to I. G. Farben, when, in your opinion did the business necessities of the Wehrmacht become the most important function of Farben?

A In the beginning of the war.

Q Isn't it true that with the beginning of the four year plan, that a greater proportion of Farben's business actually was Wehrmacht business, that is, business which had to do with getting oneself in readiness for whatever program was intended by the powers that be?

A Most of the consumption of the hydrogenation plants or the artificial plant of Buna was going to the peace consumption. With the beginning of the war, most of them were going to the O. K. W. (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht).

Q Are you acquainted with the so-called MOB plan?

A Yes. But the first I heard about this, was in 1936. It was at the time I was General bevollmächtigter für Chemische Industrie.

Q Were these plans actually drawn up first in 1934?

A I don't know that. These were made up very secretly at first.

Q Was it necessary for all I. G. plants to prepare such a plan in the event of war?

A No.

Q When did this so-called MOB plan go into operation?

A If you say, 1934, it must be perhaps in that year. It was more likely in 1938. I had nothing to do with the plan. I had to do only with the research and development. Then I had to do the whole thing as General Bevollmächtigter für Chemische Industrie (G.B.F.C.)

Q Now, in 1938 you assumed a more important position in the operation of the four year plan. Will you describe the new operations which you took over at that time?

A As I told you yesterday, it was maybe in June, 1938 that Dr. Bosch was asking me in Berlin if he could see Goering. He said to me there is a great big talk about war. If you ^{THAT} are going to war, Germany is lost. I was going then to Staatssekretär Körner and asking him to arrange for Dr. Bosch's visit to Goering. He asked me what would Dr. Bosch tell Goering, and I told him quite openly what Dr. Bosch said to me. And then he was going to Goering. Two days later, he said "I am sorry, but Goering has no time, and we cannot have this conversation at this time." Then I told Körner that I had knowledge now of the figures that are given to the government about building up of the production in the 4 year plan. Figures about the production of gasoline, of buna, of artificial products, etcetera, which show what war is going on in 1938 and 1939. I knew that these figures are wrong. I was talking a week before with Major Leeb about these figures, and I told him that there is great danger in giving at this time wrong figures to the government. It may be possible if one deciding man knows about these wrong figures and he is thinking about war, he would decide against it. If he knows we are not independent in the war he would decide against war. That is a great danger in the wrong figures question. Then Körner told this to Goering. Goering said to me the next day: "You have given other figures than we have in hand?" I told him the same thing I had told Körner that it is a great danger to give out wrong figures, and I know quite well the production of all the plants of I. G. The production is not so high as the four year plan man has given to Goering. I had asked about these figures, therefore, I had nothing to do with the figures. It was only by accident that I had experience about these figures.

Q Whose figures were they?

A Major Leeb made these figures.

Q And he showed you these figures?

A No. I have found some things wrong with these figures. They were also descriptions of the processes and the descriptions were wrong. They were included in a report which had to do with certain processes which I was to examine. In that examination, I noticed the figures on production which were contained in the report.

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Q Now, did you at that time inform Dr. Bosch of the wrong figures?

A Yes.

Q And as a result of your informing Dr. Bosch of the miscalculation, Dr. Bosch desired to see Goering?

A No. Dr. Bosch came before. Then I told Dr. Bosch that they are working with the wrong figures.

Q Did you know why Dr. Bosch felt that Germany was going to war and felt that they would lose if they did so?

A They were talking a good deal about this in the newspapers, etcetera. Hitler was talking in the Saargemund. Chamberlain and Eden was talking in London, all driving at the same thing. Even Russia was talking about it.

Q After your first talk with Goering, at which time he said that your figures were different than those which were given to him, what took place in connection with these conversations with Goering?

A Goering said: "I will talk with Keitel about the figures, and the next day, you will have to come over and we will talk again." The next day, he said: "I have talked with Keitel who said that our figures are right. Much work has been done in the building up of the plants." He said he was calling for production of explosives for two years so high, and now they had the production so high. I said to Goering that these figures are wrong. I knew the production of nitrogen and other raw materials for the plants that make explosives. And I can say they can only make so much explosives. And then Goering said to me: "Now, I have confidence in your figures." Then maybe three or four days later, I had to come to Goering's place and he said to me: "Now, you will have to make a survey of all the production for the future. If I want to know about the figures I will call on you. In order that you can have the figures from the industry or from O.I.W., I nominate you to General Bevollmächtigter für Chemische Industrie."

Q Were all your conversations with Goering held in Karan Hall?

A No. It was held about eighty percent of the time there, and about twenty percent of the time it was held in Berlin. I had to go to either place wherever he happened to be, either Karan Hall or Berlin. Karan Hall is about an hour ride from Berlin.

Q Now as a result of your finding out that the figures submitted to Goering were erroneous ones, you were appointed as the man in charge of several sections in the four year plan, in 1937?

A Yes.

Q Was it not your job to see to it that an explanation be given from time to time as to expansion of productive capacities and facilities taking place, under the four year plan?

A Yes. I had to see that the production was met that was promised. I had to go to these people and find out why they did not come up to the production standard set for them.

Q When you received your new position in 1938 as production chief, did you not create an increase in the facilities which were to produce chemicals, buna, nitrogen and the hydrogenation process?

16 A We had to achieve some figures like the peacetime consumption. That was the goal of our work, something like eight million tons of benzine and about one hundred thousand tons of Buna. And then I had to do the job of looking after the control of production. If they did not come up to the figures, then it was our job to find out why?

Q Did you not in October of 1938 send members of your staff to the Aussig Falkenau Werks to discuss with them the advisability of building military plants all round Falkenau plants?

16 A ~~That was not my business.~~ *Yes. That is not my business.*

Q You stated that it was your job to find out why particular industries did not meet their production figures. Where were these the figures which previously you described as being erroneous, because at that time you knew that they couldn't produce as much as the figures Major Leeb had submitted?

A Yes.

Q When you accepted the new position with Goering, the figures of Major Leeb were not true. Was it your job subsequently to find out why these figures could not be met by the industries in question?

A Yes.

Q Then, in fact, it was your job to see to it that the false figures became true figures.

A Yes.

Q You stated that from your standpoint, you were attempting to meet peace time figures.

A Yes.

Q Although you thought that if you met these figures ^{FOR PEACE, THEY MIGHT} correctly, ~~it would be~~ sufficient to conduct a war?

A Maybe.

Q So, although you intended that they be used for peace, the powers in the government probably intended to use them for war?

A Yes.

Q You realized that possibility at that time?

A I had to realize that possibility.

Q Was Dr. Bosch still alive and a close collaborator of yours at that time? Was he advised of the direction the industrial program was taking then?

A I believe he came to me and stated that they were going to war.

Q When did he come to tell you that?

A In June of 1938.

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"I have read this record of interrogation and I swear
that the answers given by me to the questions of
Mr. Glaser, are true."

W. P. House
(NAME)

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Position in I. O.

Interrogators

Bernard Glaser

Witnesses:

- Q When was the Vermittlungstelle W. formed, under whose leadership did it originally operate, and what were its original purposes?
- A As far as I remember that was my "anregung". Many people of the government were asking I. G. for information. They would ask the people they knew personally in I. G. to give them such information and frequently, a man of the commercial field in chemicals would be asked about dyestuffs, and such person in I. G. would give them an answer. The answer usually was wrong. People of the hydrogenation were asked about financial questions. They didn't know anything about financial questions. Then I gave to I. G. the thought to nominate one man of Sparta I (hydrogenation, nitrogen), one man of Sparta II, (pharmaceuticals and dyestuffs,) and one man from Sparta III (photography and textiles) to act as a liaison office. They should not be important men, but such men wherever responsible for these questions. Then this Vermittlungstelle W, that was the name given it, was called to the attention of the government, and then the people of the Finance Ministry, would go, in regard to financial questions over nitrogen, to Vermittlungstelle W. If they wanted to know of Sparta I---. "How much is the output of nitrogen in the year 1935 or 1936." Then Dr. Schneider came to the Vermittlungstelle W and answered the question.
- Q What year was the Vermittlungstelle W formed?
- A I think that must be in 1932. I had many discussions with the Bruening Government about Hydrogenation, and they were asking me very many questions. I spent the whole month in Berlin waiting for questions of this sort. And then I said I must have a representative in Berlin sitting and waiting only for questions. The same thing occurred with Drs. ter Meer and Gajewsky.
- Q You indicate that you had occasion to speak with the Bruening government concerning questions of hydrogenation. Was not the Vermittlungstelle W., as we use the term, specifically formed in 1934, rather than in 1932?
- A I had to do with the Bruening government in 1932. The Vermittlungstelle W. was my job in an unofficial way. Then I sent a man to Berlin for me answering all the questions, and then that organization was more and more organized. That may be officially in 1934. It was officially in 1934, and first in 1932, unofficially. The Bruening government was not asking so many questions of the I. G. ^{BECAUSE} One man of the board of directors of I. G., was ^{LARFA} Minister of Economics in the Bruening Government.
- Q After the Nazi government came into power in 1933, did the basic functions of the Vermittlungstelle W. change in any way from the kind of service rendered in 1932 to the Bruening government?
- A In no way. It was quite the same way they had to work as before.
- Q Isn't it true that with the creation of the German army, in 1933, the Vermittlungstelle W. performed many important duties with respect to orders received from the Wehrmacht, which made its functions different than they were in 1932?

- A That is possible with the rearmament and increase of the German army. That was quite a big question to industry. There may have been more questions to the armament industries, like the Krupp works, etcetera. They were all going over to the Vermittlungstelle W. Before that there was a small army and then a big army came about. The question became more and more intense.
- Q Is it not true that beginning late in 1933 and 1934, and from that time onward that, when the armed forces wanted to do business with the I. G., that instead of going to the individual plants, they went to the Vermittlungstelle W?

A Yes.

- Q At our last interrogation, I asked you concerning the so-called 'Kriegsspiele'. Was that one of the first operations which came within the functions of the Vermittlungstelle W?

BY ORDER OF THE OKU.

A That came under the functions of the Vermittlungstelle W. Yes.

- Q What part did the Vermittlungstelle W. play with respect to the drawing up and submission of the so-called MOB plan, for the various I. G. plants.

A If the O.K.W. asked questions about MOB plan, they went thru the Vermittlungstelle W. to the works. They asked the Vermittlungstelle W. to give the questions to the Leuna Works, and the Leuna Works answered. The Vermittlungstelle W. was only the intermediary. The Vermittlungstelle did not exercise initial judgment.

- Q With respect to the MOB plans for the nitrogen plants, would the plan pass through the Vermittlungstelle W. before going to the various plants producing nitrogen? Didn't the Vermittlungstelle W. as a central collecting point, develop a single policy for the nitrogen production which was promised to the high command in the event of war?

A For example, nitrogen. We had a plant in Leuna, Leverkusen and so on, and we had Sparta I. The Vermittlungstelle W. would ask Leuna a question which only concerned the Leuna Works. Any question in connection with the whole nitrogen field went to the Sparta I office.

Where was the office of Sparta I?

A That was my office, in Ludwigshafen.

Q If the O. K. W. were requesting an overall mobilization plan in connection with the production of nitrogen, they would go to the Vermittlungstelle W. and then the Vermittlungstelle in that case would get in touch with the office of Sparta I. Who drew up the MOB plan for nitrogen?

A The name of the MOB plan came to me in 1938. We were only asked about nitrogen production in particular years, say, 1932, 1933 and 1934.

- Q When were you first requested by the Nazi government to submit to it plans which indicated your productive capacity in the event of war?

A I don't remember that talk in the year 1933 or 1934 regarding the production about war. They only asked how high is our production from year to year. That was in war the same thing as in peace. And with gasoline it was the same way. We should make in peace and war as much gasoline and as much nitrogen as we can manufacture. Then they asked if we could make poison gas, and I. G. answered yes, but we will not do it. This was either in 1936 or 1937. That was no business for us, and I. G. declined to do this.

Q When did the Nazi government first start to obtain the figures on your production and when did the Nazi government first inquire about your productive capacity?

bc A For benzine, in the year 1933, Godfrey Feder ^{ASKING}asking me these questions. He was the first man connected with the Nazi party government who asked me questions about production figures.

Q Do you state then that, between the years 1933 to 1935, to your knowledge as head of the Vermittlungstelle W., and Sparta I, that there was no specific request for a program which would be put into effect in the event of war?

A No, there was not, insofar as I know.

Q Was there any time between 1935 and the time when you saw the official mobilization plan in 1938, that the Nazi government requested such a program in the event of war, from I. G. Farben?

A Not to my knowledge insofar as I know?

Q Therefore you state that until you saw the official plan for mobilization in 1938 that you knew nothing about such a plan?

A No.

Q When in 1938 did you see the official plans of the O.K.W. for war mobilization?

A In July, 1938, on the day I was nominated for the General bevoermächtigter für Chemie.

Q At that time, I assumed there were production figures for the chemical industry included in the MOB plan?

A Yes, there were!

Q Where and from whom did you suppose the government collected such figures?

A They may have been from the men of the explosive sector. You know that I. G. was producing nitrogen which you understand could be converted into explosives or into fertilizer.

Q At that time, there must have been included figures on buna and hydrogenation since they are very strategic war products. From whom did the government receive these figures?

W A The Vermittlungstelle ^{OR REICHSTELLE FÜR CHEMIE}WA The O.K.W. was asking how is our production in buna, and now quite secretly from us, they said in the MOB plan for Buna in 1936, so much and in 1939, so much. We didn't make much buna in 1938.

Q Who was Mr. Keppler?

A He was State secretary, first in the Ministry of Economics and later on state secretary for the foreign office of von Ribbentrop.

"I have the record of this interrogation and I swear that the answers I have given to the questions of Messrs. Glazer and Purcell are true."

W. P. Kerner
(signature)
Chairman of the Board of Directors
(position in I. G.)

Interrogators:

Witnesses:

Bernard Kerner

John J. Purcell

Interrogation of
Mr. Kraush

NI-6768

27 September 1945
Thursday 4 to 5 PM

- Q In connection with the production of buna, how long has I. G. been in continuous contact with the military?
- A 1936
- Q Information at hand indicates that as early as March 1935, the Wehrmacht had indicated to I. G. that it was in favor of the construction of a 2500 ton buna plant?
- A Yes.
- Q Certainly at that time the government was very concerned about your production of buna, but I take it that you mean you didn't have continuous contact with the Wehrmacht concerning buna until 1936?
- A I had constant connections with the government about buna since I was in the four year plan. That was in 1936.
- Q The question was not directed as to whether you had contact with the Wehrmacht but whether I. G. Farben had continuous contact with the Wehrmacht concerning the production of buna since 1936?
- A The Wehrmacht was asking about buna from 1933 since they knew that we were working on buna. But some of the other companies were working on this too. I told you that we discussed buna with Standard Oil as early as 1930.
- Q In connection with the construction of certain of your buna plants in 1936, didn't the military authorities guarantee that they would make the purchase of all your production?
- A I don't remember that. We had to talk about guaranteed prices with the Minister of Economics. That had nothing to do with the O. K. W. The same applies to the gasoline question.
- Q My question was, didn't the government and/or the military agree to take up if necessary, all of the production of the buna plants which you built?
- A Yes, they did. I. G. was guaranteed against loss.
- Q Wasn't it very clear to you at that time in 1936 and in 1938 that since the government and/or the military guaranteed you against loss, that they were prepared to use all your production in the buna field?
- K A Naturally so, yes. You have always to think that buna was the product of the four year plan. The four year plan was against unemployment. We had to make new production plants for employing all the workers, and the I. G. paid the money to build the plants. But it did not have the money to pay out losses. We must have a guarantee for the products of the factories we build with our own money. I personally would do quite the same thing, i.e. to ask the government, if I invest my money, to guarantee the price.
- Q An inference which has to be taken is that I. G., because of the government program, felt that it was prepared to finance its plants, but that since it was the government's wish that I. G. produce this product (buna), that I. G. should be free from loss?
- BG. A Yes. That is what I mean.
- 11.

Q Didn't it become apparent to you first in 1933, when the Wehrmacht exhibited great interest in your book, and later after you assumed your job with the four year plan in 1936, to increase the chemical capacity of Germany, that the Nazi government was on the road to war?

A I had the feeling that they were going to war, as Dr. Bosch told me in June, 1936, and that was when I went with the wrong figures of Loeb to Goering and said to him we can't go to war because the figures are all wrong. We will lose the war on this basis.

Q When the wrong figures which you submitted to Goering were corrected to the extent where they reached the level that Keitel earlier believed they were, then you must have believed that they were going to war?

A I must say today, yes.

Q At that point, what steps were taken by I. G. similar to the one which Dr. Bosch attempted to take in June 1936, when he went to see Goering, to try to halt the Nazis from going to war?

A I have answered this question before. We did nothing officially, but unofficially various people of the I. G., were talking to different men of the government. I was talking every month and saying that this is an impossible thing. They were always talking about the Weltanschauung. There is a capitalistic Weltanschauung on the English side.....If we had a war maybe we would have conquered the other people, the French, and so on, but the question of the Weltanschauung is not solved. You cannot convince others about nationalistic socialistic ideas. The United States will go its own way. You cannot solve Weltanschauung except in the spiritual way, that is, to sit together with the people and to talk about this, but not to solve this question with war, with power and so on.

Q When did Dr. Schneider succeed you as head of Sparta I?

A At the moment, when I became Chairman of the board of directors. There was a meeting of the board of directors at the time Dr. Bosch died and then I became chairman of the board of directors and Dr. Schneider became leader of Sparta I.

Q When you accepted the chairmanship of the board, did you give up Sparta I?

A Yes, I did.

Q What was the attitude of Dr. Bosch until he died about your dual position both in the four year plan and as the head of Sparta I?

A Dr. Bosch still had the same friendly feeling for me. He did not approve. There is too much work for you he told me. I was ill every month you see, and Dr. Bosch would say that it will come again, that I would break down, and that did come about on the date of the war, my physical breakdown.

Q Did your relations with Major Loeb always continue on the same good plane?

A No they did not.

A Didn't he object to the fact that you were on the I. G. board?

A At the first time, he agreed with me and then later, people of the Nazi government went to Major Loeb. They said we cannot stand the fact that a member of the I.G. is sitting in his place. You must have a real Nazi official in this place. And then Loeb told me about this, and I said to him that I would be very happy if he would relieve me. Then came, in 1938, the wrong figures I mentioned before.

Q Did you succeed Major Loeb? Did you take his place in the four year plan?

A No. Mine was a new position. He went to the Wirtschaftministerium. He was serving as under-secretary of state, and then was succeeded by Major Cimatis.

Q Originally, when the Vermittlungstelle W. was formed, which Sparta was the most active one?

A I think the most active one was the Sparta I which dealt with nitrogen and gasoline, and then Sparta II, which was the buna field, and lastly, Sparta III, which was not very active.

Q Do you recall in what year I.G. Farben had to first get a clearance from the Wehrmacht as to the location of its new plants? When did Farben first start to clear in terms of military location and dispersion of its plants?

A We had in Germany a so-called ^{Verkehrs- und Raumordnung} 'Planungsamt', and this 'Planungsamt' had to pass upon the erection of new plants. They said, in this place you do not have enough workers, in this place you are too near to the frontier. All sorts of questions like these came up. On this place there are too many other plants. You have to go to another place.

Q And that organization of the Nazi government came into operation when the Nazis did in 1933?

A AT THAT TIME.

"I have read the record of this interrogation and I swear that the answers given by me to the questions of Messrs. Glaser and Purcell are true."

H. L. Knecht
(signature)

Chairman of the Board of Directors
(position in I. G.)

Interrogators:

Bernard Glaser

Witnesses:

KI-676251 6767

28 September 1945
Friday 11 to 12: AM

Interrogation of
Hans Krauch

When were you first associated with I. G. Farben, Professor Krauch?

In 1912 with the Badische Aniline Soda Fabrik.

Q At that time you were a chemist?

A Yes that is in the laboratory work.

Q How long did you continue doing purely laboratory work for Badische Aniline Soda Fabrik?

A I was doing laboratory work in the Badische Aniline Soda Fabrik Works until 1914, and then I was a soldier in the world war I. I came back at the beginning of 1915. At that time, since the German government had decided to build up a nitrogen plant near the Leuna works and to prepare the construction of this work, they asked me to come back since I had found a way to purify the gases from certain impurities, and this process I found in the laboratory was very important for the success of the nitrogen process. To give you an example, the purifying of the natural gas process costed about a twenty pfennig per kilo, and with the process, I found in the laboratory, you could do this process for a half pfennig. And then Dr. Bosch knew about this, that I have found this process. He was always following my work in the laboratory, coming to me nearly everyday and seeing what I had made. And then the last day before world war I, I discovered this process. It was the idea of the German government to increase nitrogen production and to build up a new factory. Dr. Bosch went to the military government and said "I must have Dr. Krauch back to work out this process." This work took about a year in the technical, middle technical and final technical stage. And then they made plans for the construction of the new plant at Leuna. This was in April, 1917. And then I was assigned by Dr. Bosch to Leuna.

Q In what capacity?

A In charge of the technical works in Leuna.

Q How long did you remain as head technical man at Leuna?

A Until 1920, and then I went back to Ludwigshaven. Dr. Bosch wanted some changes made in the leading figures, and he wanted me. I was made the technical manager for the plant at Oppau.

Oppau

Q When did you have your mysterious accident at Oppau?

A In September, 1921.

Q Do you know what the cause of this was?

A Not even to this day. There were Englishmen working and somebody in the United States were working on the question of the cause of the explosion. They didn't find any cause for this. But the only thing we do know was that the blasting or explosion was caused through the blasting in the Silo.

Q Then it was Professor Krauch's duty to build up the plant.

Q After you had completed the reconstruction of the Oppau plant, did you then become the head of it?

A Yes. The plant was reconstructed in a relatively short time. In a quarter of a year the plant was running again, and then Dr. Bosch made me a director in December 1921, the day after the plant was running.

Q In 1926, you became a member of the Vorstand?

A Yes.

Q How long did you remain a member of the Vorstand before you were made the head of Sparta I?

A I was a member of the Vorstand until 1929, and in this year I made a suggestion to Dr. Bosch to institute the Sparten. Then he said: "Well, you are the man to head Sparta I."

Q You remained the head of Sparta I, until 1946, at which time you became chairman of the Aufsichtsrat and ^{were} succeeded by Dr. Schneider as head of Sparta I?

A Yes.

Will you tell me when you joined the Nazi party and what the circumstances were?
It was at the

~~I was with it at the~~ beginning of 1937. A small party official came to my home in Heidelberg. He told me: "Your name is on the list of the Gauleiter." "Some days later you will receive an identity card." I never suggested to the party that I become a member.

Q How did it happen that when you took your position with the four year plan in 1936, they didn't insist that you become a party member at that time?

^{reserved}

~~HA~~ A They were very ~~careful~~ against members of the I. G.

Q Can you explain to me in detail the nature of your relationship with I. G. Farben after you first accepted in 1936 your job as the head of the Research and Development Section of the Four Year Plan?

~~HA~~ A I was working mostly in the same way as before. When I was not sitting in Ludwigshaven, I was sitting in Berlin more, and if the people of Sparta I, would like to talk with me they went to Berlin, and I was working with them in the same way. It seems to me every week I was visiting one of the plants of Sparta I to see the laboratories. That was my hobby. I was not going so much to the meetings. Before I had to go to meetings, but now I asked to be excused. I am not a friend of big meetings. I preferred to go to the laboratories and talk with the chemists about new inventions, and not to sit down at a big table and hear all this talk and talk for days and days. Perhaps I am too nervous for this sort of thing.

Q You did however, continue to perform your functions with respect to Sparta I?

A Yes.

Q I assume also that you continued to keep in touch with the top personalities in Farben, such as Dr. Bosch, ter Meer, Schmitz, Schneider, Gajewsky?

A Yes.

NI-6768

Q I assume also?

Q Your relationship with the top figures of I. G. Farben continued the same as it had been before?

A Yes, as far as possible for me to do so.

Q Although your functions insofar as Sparta I was concerned remained the same, did you however, continue to keep in touch with the big overall problems of I.G.F. during that time as you had in the past?

A I did have however more contact with the commercial questions before, and the questions with respect agreements with other foreign countries. Nevertheless I continued to have contact with Standard Oil and I. C. I. All the questions going that way were my special business. The I. G. people said to me: "You have the best contact with the men of the Standard Oil and I. C. I., and you have to continue this business of collaboration."

Q And that was between 1936 and 1940 also?

A Yes.

Q Was there any marked difference between the period 1936 to 1940 and the period 1940 to 1945 with respect to your continued close relationship with the high personalities of Farben, and also its policy?

A From 1940 on, it was different.

Q Please explain that.

A I was in 1940 Chairman of the Aufsichtsrat and not working so intensively in personnel questions, and questions of commercial contracts and so on. I was informed as chairman of the board of directors by Hermann Schmitz in ^{commercial} technical questions, and on all important technical and policy matters. People were always running to me since I was considered an expert and could help them on the technical questions.

Q To what extent were Schmitz, Schneider and Bosch and ter Meer informed of the nature of your activities in the four year plan?

A Only as it was the business of the I. G. Farben, and what it had to do with the four year plans. There were other competitors of I. G. Farben coming to me and I could not tell them (Farben) what the other companies were doing. It would not be proper to do that.

Q I can understand that as being good business ethics. Did you have occasion to inform your close colleagues in I. G. Farben as to the general nature, the overall goal of your work in the four year plan, what your target was, in the real sense?

A That I talked over with Geheimrat Schmitz with the reference to long range goals of the four year plan. I had talked with Dr. Bosch while he was alive much more concerning matters of the four year plan.

NI-676868

Q Did you discuss these matters with Dr. Bosch as president of the firm and as a close personal friend?

A Yes. Particularly, the latter.

"I swear that the above interrogation has been read by me and that the answers given by me to the questions of Messrs. Glaser and Purcell, are true."

J. C. Hansen
(signature)

Chairman of the Board of Directors
(position in I.G. Farben)

Interrogators:

Witnesses:

Ermond Glaser

John J. Purcell