

SECRET

This document consists of 4 pages
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic Information

BEST, Karl Rudolf Werner

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Dr. Karl Rudolf Werner Best, World War II German plenipotentiary in Denmark, arrived in West Germany on August 29, 1951 after deportation from Denmark, where he had served six years of a twelve-year prison sentence. Originally sentenced to death, Best saw his sentence commuted to five years by a Danish court of appeals, and subsequently raised to twelve years by the Danish Supreme Court. He was freed from prison and deported to West Germany on condition that he would never again enter Denmark without the express approval of the Danish Government. 1/

Dr. Best's qualifications and life-long interest in political and governmental questions, as well as his relative youth, indicate that he may again play a role in the German political scene. Now 53 years old, Dr. Best was reported as one of the ex-Nazis in contact with Friedrich Middelhaue, Bundestag deputy and deputy national chairman of the Free Democratic Party (Freie Demokratische Partei) in February 1953. 2/ Best was then working in the law offices of Ernst Achenbach, a powerful German lawyer who had distinguished himself at the Nuremberg trials and in his handling of the Stinnes' enterprises, but who had been temporarily discredited within the Free Democratic Party for neo-Nazi tendencies. Achenbach is presently a leader in the FDP in North Rhine-Westphalia. In June 1954 a restricted German newsletter, Politik und Wirtschaft (Politics and Industry), mentioned Dr. Best as a probable section chief for Northern Affairs in the future German "Counterintelligence Service" (Deutscher Abwehrdienst). It is probable that Best and Achenbach, both of whom were in the Nazi Foreign Office, and both of whom are lawyers with similar political views, will continue to work together toward finding a suitable forum for their ambitions. No information is available about Dr. Best's current activities.

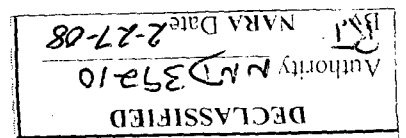
Education and Career, 1903 - 1940

Best was born at Darmstadt, Germany, on July 10, 1903. His father, a minor official in the post office system, was killed fighting on the Western Front shortly after the outbreak of World War I. After attending humanist high schools (humanistische gymnasien) at Dortmund and Mainz, Best studied law at the universities of Frankfurt am Main, Freiburg im Breisgau, and Giessen, receiving the degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Heidelberg in 1927. Embarking on a legal career, he worked as a court reporter, administrator, lawyer, and court assessor in Mainz before receiving an appointment as a judge in the Hessian court. He held this position until his discharge on December 1, 1931, after charges of treason in connection

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with the Boxheim Documents had been brought against him. Best's role in this abortive effort to overthrow the Weimar Republic is not clear; one source reports categorically that he was the author of the documents. 3/ Best's explanation for his actions, that the decrees were to be put into effect only in the event of a Communist revolution in 1931, were accepted and the charges against him dropped. He was not, however, reappointed to the judgeship.

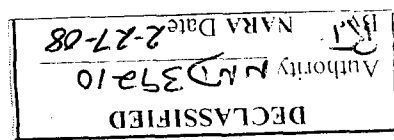
Best was welcomed into the Nazi Party in 1930, for as early as 1919 he had been politically active in the French Occupation Zone, receiving a suspended sentence and a fine of 1,000 marks for his part in the German passive resistance movement of 1923. He received rapid promotions within the Nazi Party, and was elected a Nazi deputy to the Hesse Landtag in 1931, the year in which he joined the SS with the rank of Ober-Sturmabfuhrer (lieutenant colonel). In 1933 Best became State Commissioner of the Hessian Police, and on July 10 of the same year was appointed president of the Land Police (Landespolizei). After steering the Land of Hesse through the Nazi seizure of power, Best was given a leave of absence from his positions in Hesse in order to work in the investigative service of the Reichsfuhrer SS, Heinrich Himmler. In 1936 he held the dual positions of Chief of the Legal Division of the SS and First Government Counselor and Deputy Director of the Gestapo, the latter organization having been brought under SS control late in 1935. The outbreak of war found Best as Chief of Administration and Law in Himmler's Department of the Interior, a position which probably made him Himmler's assistant in dealing with high treason and espionage. 4/

Best began his wartime career eminently qualified for the important positions which he was to hold. He had written numerous Nazi books and pamphlets, among them the chapter on "The War and the Reich" in Ernst Juenger's definitive volume, War and Warriors. He held the SS rank of Obersturmbannfuhrer, and was a close personal friend of Himmler's. Best was also one of the theoreticians of the Nazi government; one of his roles seems to have been to explain the need for the Nazi police system, and in doing so he touched on the philosophical bases of Nazism.

The War Years

With the collapse of France, Best was sent to Paris as chief military administrator with the SS rank of Brigadefuhrer (brigadier general). He acted as Otto Abetz' personal assistant and earned for himself the nickname "Bloodhound of Paris". 5/ The famous "telegram crisis" of 1942, in which Hitler expressed his indignation at the perfunctory reply which King Christian of Denmark sent to a birthday telegram from Hitler, gave the German government

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a good opportunity to withdraw its envoy to Denmark, Renthe-Fink, and replace him with Dr. Best. At the same time, the German military commander was replaced by General Herman von Hanneken, a man more in accord than most with Josef Goebbels' concept of total war.

Best and von Hanneken disagreed violently from the very beginning of their joint tenure in Denmark. It was apparently Best's desire to pursue a moderate course in Denmark, using the Danish press, the Danish police, and respected Danish authorities whenever possible to enforce the German occupation. Von Hanneken, on the contrary, espoused from the start a policy of extreme severity and repression. Although Best's conciliatory policy turned out to be a failure, he had by 1942 established connections among the Nazi hierarchy in Berlin which allowed him to keep the upper hand, even in the face of criticism by Hitler. 6/ 7/ Best is reported to have been close to Joachim von Ribbentrop, 8/ Martin Bormann, 9/ and Reinhard Heydrich. 10/

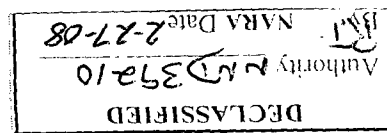
Best's desire for moderation in Denmark was doomed to failure, for the Danes accepted their role in the "New Order" no more readily than other Europeans. The free elections that Best persuaded Berlin to accept in Denmark, resulted in a severe defeat for the Danish Nazi Party, which received only 2 percent of the votes cast, the other 98 percent going to the democratic fronts. The period between the election in March 1943 and the state of emergency declared by von Hanneken in August 1943 saw a growing increase in acts of sabotage and strikes. After August 1943 Denmark was under de facto military rule, although a crisis of July 1944 was again met with moderate repressive measures, the striking workers even receiving their wages for the period of the strike. It may be said that Dr. Best, perhaps more than any of the other German governors of occupied countries, attempted to win an ally for Germany, and that this policy, pursued by him to the end, proved to be a total failure.

Best, von Hanneken, and Himmler apparently agreed not to persecute the Danish Jews. In this desire, however, they were overruled by Hitler, 11/ and on October 1, 1943, they arrested some 400 Jews, who were subsequently deported to Germany. Best and von Hanneken appear to have been largely responsible for the successful escape of most Danish Jews to Sweden in direct violation of Hitler's wishes. 5/

Personality and Views

Best was unquestionably a roughneck politician in his university days, and could take care of himself in the rough-and-tumble of the Weimar political scene. He appears, however, to have changed completely in the years following his marriage in 1930 to Hildegarde Regner. 4/ Benedetto Capomazza, First Secretary of the Italian Legation at Copenhagen during Best's service there, described him as "a person of broad and moderate mind, with a touch of human sense which makes him different from the other Nazi chiefs. He has many children; he is a happy husband, and he loves his family life". It was

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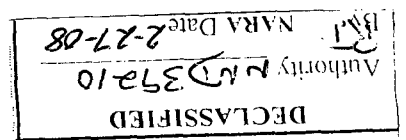


Capomazza's opinion that Best possessed considerable diplomatic skill which enabled him to come close to success in his objectives in Denmark.

The quality which endeared Best most to his Nazi chiefs in Berlin was probably his unswerving loyalty to the Nazi ideal. A Danish refugee described him as "a handsome, polished, well-mannered, elegantly dressed fellow who will stop at nothing to carry out the orders of Himmler, his master." ^{12/} Another quality mentioned frequently in connection with Best is frankness; there exists the apocryphal story that, upon being reproached for having assured King Christian that the Germans had no intention of assuming control in 1943, one day, in fact, before the German Army did so, Best answered with complete cynicism, "But I am a man without honor." ^{12/} These qualities must have been highly prized in Berlin, for Best, in spite of his failure in Denmark, retained his position until the end of the war, receiving in 1944 a promotion to the grade of Obergruppenfuhrer (lieutenant general), the highest rank of the SS.

Sources:

- 1/ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, August 30, 1951, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 2/ Bonn, Despatch 2335, February 9, 1953, RESTRICTED.
- 3/ R&A, Central European Section, April 20, 1943, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 4/ Inside the Gestapo, Hansjuergen Kochler, London, 1940, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 5/ Stockholm, Despatch 3548, Enclosure #1, June 16, 1944, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 6/ Stockholm, Despatch 3800, July 31, 1944, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 7/ London, Associated Press, August 29, 1943, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 8/ Stockholm, OSS #8288, November 13, 1942, SECRET.
- 9/ Bern, OSS #2139, May 18, 1942, classification unknown.
- 10/ New York Times, November 6, 1943, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 11/ New York Times, October 8, 1943, UNCLASSIFIED.
- 12/ Stockholm, Telegram #3879, August 9, 1944, classification unknown.



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NAME: BEST, Karl Rudolf Werner *Indefect ch*

BORN: July 10th, 1903 in Darmstadt.

NATIONALITY: German

OCCUPATION: Ministerialdirektor in Auswärtigen Amt, former Reichbevollmächtigte in Denmark.

POLITICAL ATTITUDE: Nazi, member no. 341338

RELIGION: Lutheran

LATEST PERMANENT ADDRESS: 1, Thannerpfad, Berlin-Zehlendorff

REASON FOR DETENTION: Foreordain category

RELIABILITY: C.3.

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RELATIVES:

FATHER: Georg Konrad Best, died in 1914, 37 years old, Postinspektor und Oberleutnant der Reserve. Political attitude: National-liberal

MOTHER: Karoline Christiane Best, nee Nohr, born on September, 18th, 1875 in Bessungen near Darmstadt. Residence- 15, Eleonorenstrasse in Mainz-Gousenheim. Political attitude: Nazi.

BROTHER: Konrad Günther walther Best, born on May, 20th, 1905 in Liegnitz, Theaterwissenschaftler. Residence: Marburg a. d. Lahn. Political attitude: Nazi.

WIFE: Hilde Best, nee Regner, born on May, 23d, 1909 in Mainz. Residence: 259, Strandvej, Copenhagen. At present: the "Oksbøl Camp". Political attitude: None.

CHILDREN:
Gisela 13 years old
Hartmut 11 years old
Heide 9 years old
Siglind 6 years old
Diethart 3 years old.

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| IS | X |
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DOCUMENTS:
A. Letter of August, 2nd, 1945 from R.F.Heningway re Dr. Best, and a warrant from the same person.
B. Form of finger prints and photos of Best.
C. Letter of August, 12th, 1945 from C-I Documents Team 21 Army Group re Dr. Best's dairies
D. Letter of August, 13th, 1945 from C-21 Army Group re information from dairies.

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the preliminary legal exam, the so-called "Referendarprüfung". For the next three years he did practical work at various Hessian courts and centres of administration, until he passed the legal exam at Darmstadt in 1928, and became Gerichtsassessor. When he was studying he wrote his doctor thesis, which he presented in 1928 at the university at Heidelberg, and he got the title of Dr. juris.

From 1929 to 1931 he had various appointments as a judge at various Hessian courts in Worms, Reinheim, Gross-Gerau, Friedberg, Gernsheim, Alzey.

In 1931 he was suspended from the occupation, as he, being afraid of the increasing unemployment in Germany, privately had written some designs of an article about emergency arrangements. By some means or other these documents came in the hands of the Hessian administration, and during the investigation the detainee was suspended, as mentioned. His suspension lasted till 1933, and during this time he earned nothing but the subsistence money, which the Hessian diet paid him. His payment amounted to Rmk. 160,- per month, and for this amount he supported himself, wife and a child.

After the Nazis' Machtübernahmen in 1933, the detainee's circumstances improved, as Dr. MÜLLER gave him the occupation as leader of the Hessian police. He first became Staatskommissar and later on Landespolizeipräsident, the last mentioned being a title only. His occupation still was Regierungsrat at the Hessian ministry of the interior.

His occupation in Hesse ceased in the end of 1933, as political disagreements rose between Best and the local Gauleiter.

At the request of Himmler he thereafter entered the German Reichspolizei, where he was until 1940. Besides being chief of Abt. I, he was deputed temporary leader of Abt. III, which had to do with Abwehr and espionage, and this occupation he had until 1939.

From June 1940 until August 1942 he was Kriegsverwaltungschef in France with head-quarter in Paris, and then he came to Denmark as Reichsbevollmächtigter.

RELATION TO THE PARTY:

§ 2. The detainee explains that he had been a member of the Nazi youth association "Jungnationaler Bund" in his youth, and when studying he had been a member of "Deutscher Hochschulenring". These two associations were really unpolitical, being student-bodies, which were engaged in academical questions. The detainee declared that he was young when he got national feelings. As well his father's death in the battle-field, which he looked upon as a heroic death, as the collapse of das deutsche Reich, had impressed him deeply, and he decided to do his utmost, so that Germany again could come out of the mire, into which it had sunk. He was aware of this, already as a young man, that his mother and brother lived under such circumstances, as she kept two sons out of a little pension. So his whole youth was of a very serious, yes nearly ascetic nature. He was only proposed for work and duty, he therefore considered it to be his duty to restore Germany again.

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During the time when he was studying, he had been influenced by the German philosopher FICHTE's maxims, as he had joined the so-called Fichte Hochschule Gemeinde.

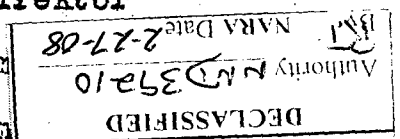
Best maintains that the basis for his later political view of the world has been taken from Fichte's speech to the German nation, "Reden an die Deutsche Nationen", in which is explained the definition of a nation. The detainee's political endeavours reached time by time a higher level. He looked for intercourse with famous authors and members of the aristocracy, but the increasing unemployment, which seemed to be a complete catastrophe, forced him to see that something effective had to be done. The detainee understood that the exclusive circle he had tried to get into connection with, would be unable to do the work, which had to be done, in order to stop - what the detainee called - the progressive unemployment.

During the years the detainee had heard and read about the Nationalsocialism, and time by time he was convinced about the fact that the Nationalsocialism only would be strong enough to solve the problem which had to be done, if Germany should be brought out of the chaos, into which the old political parties time by time had brought it. - What specially had pleased the detainee in the Nazi program was the promise of big state work schemes, by which millions of men would get work immediately, by which the purchasing power would rise again and give productive work also outside the proper state work.

On November, 1st, 1930 he joined DNSAP in Hesse. Already then he had heard several speeches by Hitler, and he was fully convinced about the fact that this man would be able to prevent the danger of death, which threatened Germany.

In 1931 the detainee became a member of SS. This happened upon application from the leader of SS Standarte Hessen, who wanted the detainee to wear SS-uniform in the Hessian diet, of which the detainee was a member. The fact was that most of the members of the diet, were members of SA and were wearing the brown SA-uniform. It was therefore important from the point of view of propaganda that the SS-uniform also was represented at the diet. Best became:

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|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1931 | SS Mann | Gerichtsassessor ausser Dienst |
| 1933 | Sturmführer | Regierungsrat |
| 1935 | Obersturmbannführer. | Oberregierungsrat |
| 1937 | Standartenführer | Ministerialrat |
| 1938 | Oberführer und Brigadenführer | Ministerialdirigent |
| 1940 | " " | Ministerialdirektor |
| 1942 | Gruppenführer | Reichsbevollm |
| 1944 | Obergruppenführer | Reichsbevollm |



The detainee's various promotions within SS has been of a pure formal nature and was given only, so that he should not be inferior to the various SS-men. He maintains that he has never received money from SS or the Party, but has always been paid by the German government.

**CONSCRIPTION-
RELATIONS:**

§ 3. In 1923 the detainee joined a volunteer military course at the 15th. Infantry regiment, Jägerregiment, at Marburg. After 3 weeks he hurt his foot, why he had to give up the further education. - When the war broke out in 1939 he joined again, and he was called up for the 36th. infantry regiment at Friedberg. He participated in the training for two months, as the Oberkommando took him out of the line and referred him to the Military administration.

As he did not join the SS the reason was that his decision about entering the army was due to a controversy with HEYDRICH, so he was really without connection with SS and in a way unemployed.

In August 1940 he was sent to Paris, where he became department-leader in "Verwaltungsstab". His task was to negotiate with the French Government Committee about the many different pure administrative questions, which were present in the occupied France.

**WORK WITHIN THE
POLICE:**

§ 4. In March 1933 he took over the position as leader of Landespolizei in Hesse. It was his task to adapt things to the new course which had to be followed after the Machtübernahmen. To obtain this, he immediately employed some SA and Stahlhelm men as auxiliary police, just as he had the political opponents put to prison and later on transferred to a camp. All over the Reich these arrests took place without being legal, and the arrested persons were later on transferred to concentration camps without trial. They may later on have been placed before a court. - The detainee wanted to point out that the above mentioned arrestings apparently were done by the regular policemen, who remained in their positions.

**TRANSFER TO THE
REICHPOLIZEI:**

§ 5. The occupation as leader of Landespolizei in Hesse he had until the end of 1933, as political disagreements rose between Best and the local Gauleiter SPRENGER, who wanted the attitude towards the old police men to be more severe. The effect was that Best was exempted from his position in Hesse.

Then HIMMLER sent for him, and asked him, if he was interested in a position within the organization of the German Reichspolizei, and as Best accepted this proposal, he was sent out on a journey to Stuttgart and Munich for 6 months in 1934 and afterwards to Berlin, also for a period of 6 months, and everywhere he had the opportunity to get familiar with the work under Abt. I. In January 1935 he was appointed leader of Abt. I, which had to do with pure administrative things, only juridical and financial matters and training, and this position he kept until he came to 1940.

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From 1933 to 1935 Reichspolizei was acting as security police only, for which reason it came directly under Himmler, but when Himmler in 1935 became chief of the German police in German home ministry, the German criminal police came under the Reichspolizei too, which in the same moment got the name of Reichssicherheitshauptamt. The detainee's position remained unchanged, namely leader of Abt. I, but he got new tasks, so as issuing of pass-ports.

The detainee's commander-in-chief was, as mentioned HIMMLER, who was chief of the German police, while Best's immediate superior was HEYDRICH, who named himself chief of the German Sicherheitspolizei. At the time of the Anschluss - March 1938 - Heydrich ordered him to choose a certain number of police men, who should appear at Munich on a certain day, this order he obeyed. The detainee has had nothing else to do with the Anschluss, and he stated that Heydrich's order arrived a few days before the police men should be at Munich.

He further explained that he had nothing to do with the Jewish problem in Germany, as that came under Reichsinnenministerium seen from the point of law, while these laws were carried into effect by Abt. IV under charge of the then Oberregierungs- und Kriminalrat, Dr. HEINRICH MÜLLER.

Nor has he had anything to do with the concentration camps, as he says that this question came under the then Generalmajor EICKE, who was the leader of a special department under Himmler.

CONSTITUTION AS
LEADER OF ABT. III:

§ 6. The detainee explained that the leader of Abt. III Gestapos Abwehr, Dr. PATSCHOWSKI got into a conflict with the then Reichskriegsministerium and was dismissed. As Himmler and Heydrich wanted this department to work as diplomatic and easy as possible in relation to the Wehrmachts Abwehr, and as there was no fitted expert, the detainee was required to place himself at the disposal of this department too, at the same time being leader of Abt. I.

His main task was to see that the work between the Wehrmachts Abwehr and the police's Abwehr worked as smoothly as possible, and to settle competence disputes, if any. In order to achieve this it was determined that the Wehrmachts Abwehr should have to do with the active intelligence service and counterespionage, while the Polizei's Abwehr should have to do with the examination and the penal prosecution in the cases where treason was supposed to be in hand.

The detainee's work as leader of the department was quite easy, being in charge only when competence disputes rose. The daily management of the Abwehr work did not actually rely upon him, and the effect was that weeks could pass where he did not do any work for Abt. III, as the daily work went on automatically. He usually negotiated with the then Kapitän zur See, later Admiral CANARIS or his deputy, Oberstleutnant BAMLER, later on Oberstleutnant von BENTIVEGNT.

The detainee informs that Abt. III had their own examinations, interrogations etc. no executive authority.

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Signed: H. Frost. Høeg Madsen,
Lt.

ACTIVITY IN FRANCE
PARIS:

§ 7. In Paris he was leader of a section within the administration, which came under the commander-in-chief in France. He had to do with the administrative-aries in all matters, which did not concern commercial things, e.g. police, administration of justice, culture etc. His French liaison was a Prefect Dr. INGRAND, with whom the detainee thinks he has had a sensible cooperation. He insists upon the fact that he has cooperated with nobody else in France.

On being confronted about the fact that during his activity in France he got the nickname "The Blood Hound from Paris", which nickname he had still got when he arrived here in Denmark, he said, that he knows about it, but he cannot see the reason why he has been called so. On the contrary the detainee is of the opinion that the French Nation ought to be grateful to him, as he was an opponent of hostage executions and similar terror actions. He stated that among his properties he has had a letter from Darland's secretary of state BENOIS MACHIN, thanking him for his intelligible attitude towards the Frenchmen in general.

The detainee maintains that he was only an insignificant part of the machinery in France, as no executive authority was given to him, so he cannot understand, why he has got the above mentioned nickname.

REMOVAL TO BERLIN: § 8. In the beginning of 1942 the detainee was moved to Auswärtiges Amt in Berlin. RIBBENTROP had spoken about a position within the Foreign Diplomacy Service, and the detainee spent 3 months in Berlin, to make himself acquainted with the work at Auswärtiges Amt. He went from section to section to learn the details of the routine, and to indentify himself with the tasks, which could be at hand.

In October 1942 Ribbentrop told him that Hitler had recalled the German minister in Denmark von Renthe-Fink, and that it was possible that the detainee could get this position.

REMOVAL TO DENMARK: § 9. On November 15th, 1942 the detainee was moved to Denmark as Reichsbevollmächtigter, and contradistinguished from the retired Renthe-Fink, the detainee was not appointed minister, as he then should have presented his credentials to the king, which must not take place according to an order given by Hitler. Hitler was offended with the king, it had expressly been stated that the detainee should cooperate with the Danish government, and should leave alone the Royal Family. But the detainee noticed soon that that was not good for the work here in Denmark that he always had to ignore the king, and therefore he tried very hard to re-establish the connection with the Royal Family. As far as the detainee can remember, he was in March 1943 authorized to apply first to the Crown-Prince and later on to the King himself. The detainee maintains that during the 30 months he has been here in Denmark, he has always tried to pursue a policy out from what he himself had made for a national principle, and on account of pure reasons he has tried to cooperate with the government and the here in Denmark. This policy had the effect for propaganda reasons called Denmark a protectorate, but the policy busted partly by propaganda from London and partly on account of the Danish Resistance Movement. As far as the detainee can see

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the Resistance Movement knew that the policy, pursued here in Denmark, was the most dangerous policy, which could be pursued, with regard to the fact that the Resistance Movement wanted Denmark to be recognized as an Allied belligerent. The Danish Resistance Movement and the propaganda from London availed themselves of the mentality, which was prevalent within the leading German military circles, and they succeeded in exiting these circles to such an extent that they for the sake of their prestige felt induced to force the ever-increasing numbers of stringent matters here in Denmark. The detainee maintains that he has always been an opponent of these stringent matters, and he has in all ways tried to stop it, just as he has protested against it in Aussenwärtiges Amt. When told that he could not help being aware of the fact that a more stringent procedure caused a big sacrifice of the Danish population, partly by means of clearing-murders and partly by means of counter-sabotage, and that he had really made the best out of a bad job, he declares that it was impossible for him to change the course, as he would have been dismissed immediately or even sent to a concentration camp, if he had informed Berlin about the fact that he would retire if the policy he wanted could not be pursued. The result would have been that a new man with a much more stringent course would have been send up here. He further maintains that during the discussions with the leading Danish persons he again and again has asked, if they wanted him to retire, but he always got the answer, that they did not risk so, in order not to get a more stringent course here in Denmark. Finally he thought that it was impossible for him to retire during the war, even if he wanted to, as he in all probability had been told to carry on in the position.

RELATION TO
PANCKE:

§ 10. When PANCKE was appointed hähare SS und Polizeiführer in Denmark, it was expressly stated that his position was to rank parallel with that of the Reichsbvollmächtigter. Several times the detainee tried to have it changed, so that he would be the superior of Pancke, but HIMMLER opposed and defined precisely that the two positions were collateral. So the detainee had no influence on Pancke nor was he in command of him, so he could not prevent Pancke and his police from doing what they wanted to, and the detainee points out that he cannot be held responsible for their behavior here in Denmark.

RELATION TO
BOVENSIEPEN:

§ 11. About his relation to BOVENSIEPEN the detainee explains that he was not at all this person's superior, but Bovensiepen received his orders from Pancke or direct from Berlin, DR. KALTENBRUNNER. But the detainee has often send for Bovensiepen in order to be informed about the doings here in Denmark, so that he was able to answer the questions from the Danish officials.

As stated Bovensiepen reigned supreme, he never consulted the detainee before doing his official duties. The detainee is of the opinion that Bovensiepen was the actual leader of the counter-terror here in Denmark, but he maintains that this has never been hinted to him directly.

The detainee says now, however, that in some cases, e.g. the blasting-terror at Odense, he has been told so direct a way that he was not in doubt that the Germans were behind this terror. In this connection he wired a protest to Berlin.

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When being confronted about the fact that Bovensiepen has explained that Berlin always ordered him to confer with Dr. Best before clearing-murders and counter-sabotage took place, so that the actions did not give a disturbing effect on the political line, which Dr. Best intended to pursue here in Denmark, Dr. Best declared that that was not the case. He admits having told Bovensiepen and Pancke, when they in general discussed this subject, that certain groups of officials, political leaders etc. ought to be kept outside the retribution actions, as a murder of a person of the mentioned categories might cause troubles, if the result was contrary to the intention. The detainee points out that his warnings were not followed in some cases, e.g. in regard to the director of Harbour works and various members of the Lower House. Besides this general warning to the two men, the detainee has been unable to assist in selecting the victims, which Bovensiepen has picked out, as he, according to his position's nature, had no rights to give orders to Pancke or Bovensiepen.

When told that Bovensiepen further more had said that the detainee in several cases personally had referred Bovensiepen's attention to a subject, which was worth counter-sabotage, e.g. the Tuborg case, the detainee denies this. He does not know why Bovensiepen will frame this on him.

RELATION TO THE POLICE:

§ 12. The detainee maintains that the relations between himself and the German police in Denmark always were strained, and it increased after the so-called national strike. The detainee wants to explain that he considered it his duty to finish this national strike as soon as possible and in the cheapest way for both parties. Thus he came in opposition to the German police, who in the measures, cutting off the supply of water, light and gas, which measures were taken on account of the national strike, saw a wellcome opportunity to deal the Copenhagen population and also the Resistance Movement with a final, smashing blow. It was the police's, in case of Bovensiepen, proposal to keep the punishments in force as long as possible, 8 - 14 days, so that the population would have been brought to a complete subjection. The detainee was against this and he really saw a personal victory, as he by political means succeeded in finishing the national strike during a few days, by getting the Danish politicians BUHL and OLE BJORN KRAFT and others to appeal to the population through the wireless. The propaganda which appeared after the strike showed, however, that his assistance was not appreciated, but was used so that the end of the national strike became a victory to the population and the Liberation Council. Berlin looked at it in the same way, and he has several times been blamed in this respect. He further states that it was on his request that the Wehrmacht took over the command re the accomplishment of the extraordinary measures. He asked General von HANNIKEN to see to this, knowing that Pancke wanted to take over the command in the rising situation. The detainee insisted upon the fact that the Wehrmacht would be the mildest way out, and he was successful. He knows that Pancke later received reprimands from Berlin, because he did command but let the chance slip out of left it to the Wehrmacht to accomplish

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When being confronted on the fact that he must be considered responsible too to the terror-policy, which was in force here in Denmark, he declared that he cannot agree to that. Told that in Danish opinions anyhow, he has been accessory in the crimes committed, he denies this too and referred to the fact that first of all he had no executive authority to stop the terror-policy, and secondly he had protested against the used methods through the ways which were open to him, namely through Auswärtiges Amt. Further told that he had been present on Dec. 30th, 1943 when HITLER spoke about what was to happen in Denmark, he explained that in broad outlines he knew about it, but the order was not given to him personally, but either through Hitler to Pancke or direct to Pancke. For instance did he know nothing about the fact that they had claimed clearing-murders in the proportion 1 to 5. He was of the definite impression that the clearing-murders should be in force towards the Danish terrorists only, so when he saw that they went outside these scopes and started to murder persons, who had had nothing to do with the actions in question, he protested in Berlin. So he will not admit that he in any way either direct or indirect can be held liable to the terror-actions which were committed, during the time he was Reichsbevollmächtigter here in Denmark.

THE ACTION OF THE POLICE:

§ 13. The detainee explained that he had no knowledge about the fact that the action in question was to take place. Best himself was in Jutland to inspect the battlement work, and there he received a telegraphic information about the action against the police. He returned to Copenhagen immediately, but met here a performed fact and thus it was impossible for him to ~~put~~ things up. When being confronted about the fact that Pancke has explained that on September, 12th, during a conversation he had told the detainee that in the days following an action against the police would take place, he declined that Pancke should have said anything like that to him. The writers made him acquainted with the fact that Pancke had explained that Berlin had given the order that Best was not to be informed about this, but for private and friendly reasons Pancke found it necessary to tell Best about it, so that he should not be taken by surprise. Best still denied that Pancke should have said what is stated above,

At last the detainee wanted to add the following:

Competence disputes were always prevalent between Best and the local German police. On March, 5th, Dr. Best was present in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin, where a deliberation took place between various prominent officials, amongst others Dr. KALTENBRUNNER. Amongst other things they were to discuss the question of the German refugees in Denmark, which was very urgent at that time. During the deliberation the detainee maintained that if they wanted to send more German refugees to Denmark, it was necessary to do something to raise the mood or rather to raise sympathy for Germany, and he proposed that the Danish police men were sent back to Denmark, The Bernadotte-Ac

This was so to say well received and decided, but suddenly Kaltenbrunner appeared a communique from Denmark, probably from BOVENSIEPEN, in

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which was stated that the German Sicherheitspolizei in Denmark had unveiled a resistance group of 8,000 men. This commuquai, of which the detainee knew nothing, was placed before HITLER, who immediately blew up in a rage, and forbid to bring one single Danish person back to Denmark. So the German police put all possible obstacles in the way of the detainee.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITY:

§ 14. The detainee's position here in Denmark was divided into 4 head departments.

Hauptabt. I. AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK.

Leader: Minister Dr. BARANDON, abt. 61 years old, abt. 175 cms, corpulent, bald-headed. Was dismissed when the Danish police action took place, accused of high treason.

He was replaced by:

Minister Bennard, abt. 50 years old, abt. 163 cms, slim, fair, somewhat bald, wore glasses. Arrested, is in Neumünster.

Deputy: Studienrat, SS Untersturmführer der Reserve in der Waffen SS BIELSTEIN, abt. 35 years old, abt. 170 cms, stout, fair. Liaison officer of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Gesandtschaftsrat, Dr. BOBRİK, head of the consulate department, abt. 40 years old, abt. 179 cms, slim, dark-haired. Arrested, is in Neumünster.

Hauptabt. II. VERWALTUNG UND RECHT.

Leader: Regierungsdirektor, Dr. FRIEDRICH STALMANN, abt. 45 years old, abt. 170 cms, corpulent, dark-haired, wore glasses.

Deputy: Oberregierungsrat, LUDWIG CHANTRE, abt. 35 years old, abt. 170 cms, abnormally fat, dark hair. Died on April, 1st, 1945 in Copenhagen.

Regierungsrat ZIEGLER, abt. 45 years old, abt. 175 cms; slender; strongly built, thin dark hair. Arrested is at Neumünster.

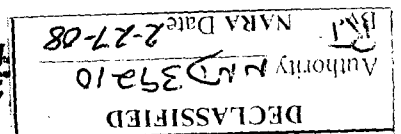
Hauptabt. III. WIRTSCHAFT.

Leader: Ministerialdirigent, Dr. EBNER, abt. 65 years old, abt. 160 cms, slim, dark-haired.

Deputy: Ministerialrat, Dr. WUNDER, abt. 63 years old, abt. 165 cms, middle height, grey-haired. Probably in Copenhagen.

Oberrat, Dr. STIER, abt. 40 years old, abt. 170 cms, corpulent, thin fair hair, blue eyes, one glass-eye. Arrested, is at Neumünster.

Regierungsrat, Dr. MEULEMANN, abt. 175 cms, strongly built, arrested, is at Neumünster.



Hauptabt. IV. TECHNIK.

Leader:

Früher Landesrat MARTINSEN, abt. 50 years old, abt. 180 cms, strongly built, thin dark hair.

In February 1945 he was replaced by:

Ministerialdirigent GOLLERT, abt. 47 years old, abt. 175 cms, corpulent, thin dark hair, wearing glasses.

Replaced by:

Diplomingenieur FICKERT, abt. 38 years old, abt. 175 cms. slim, dark-haired.

GESCHAFTSBEREICH, KULTURPOLITIK.

Leader:

Gesandtschaftsrat HANS WERNER SCHACHT, abt. 40 years old, abt. 185 cms, slim, dark-haired, scars from dueling,

Presseattaché JURGEN SCHRÖDER, abt. 35 years old, abt. 165 cms, corpulent, fair hair, broad face, South Jutlander.

Rundfunkattaché LOHMANN, abt. 45 years old, abt. 165 cms, corpulent, thin dark hair.

ABT. ARBEIT.

Oberregierungsrat, Dr. HEISE, abt. 45 years old, abt. 165 cms, corpulent, thin dark hair, wearing glasses. Was sent to Danzig in November 1944. Was replaced by:

Direktor, Dr. FREY, abt. 55 years old, abt. 180 cms, slim, grey-haired, moustache. Arrested, is at Neumünster.

DER HANDELSATTACHÉ

Generalkonsul, Dr. KRÜGER, abt. 65 years old, abt. 180 cms, corpulent, bald.

Deputy:

Direktor STEVEN, abt. 60 years old, abt. 165 cms, corpulent, thin dark hair, grey moustache.

DER SCHIFFFAHRTSSACHVERSTÄNDIGE-

GEORG FERDINAND DUCKWITZ, abt. 40 years old, abt. 180 cms, strongly built, dark-haired, wearing glasses. Is still in Copenhagen.

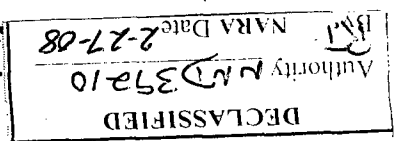
ZENTRALABTEILUNG.

Leader:

Konsul POLLOW, abt. 68 years old; abt. 160 cms, thin, thin white hair. Arrested, is at Neumünster.

In February 1945 he was replaced by:

Konsul MERFELS, abt. 55 years old, abt. 175 cms, middle height, dark-hair, wearing glasses.



GENERALKONSULAT AT AARHUS.

Generalkonsul, Dr. Hensel, abt. 55 years old, abt. 180 cms, corpulent, dark-haired.

KONSULAT AT AALBORG.

Konsul BRANDTNER, abt. 60 years old, abt. 165 cms, slim, dark-haired.

KONSULAT AT ODENSE.

Konsul GEORG BSHME, abt. 35 years old, abt. 185 cms, slim, dark-haired. Arrested, is at Odense.

KONSULAT AT AABENRAA.

Konsul MEYER, abt. 60 years old, abt. 170 cms, middle height, thin dark hair.

AUSSENSTELLE SILKEBORG.

Landrat WILH. CASPER, Verbindungsmann zum Sturmabteilungsführer, abt. 43 years old, abt. 180 cms, slim, auburn hair.

AUSSENSTELLE AABENRAA.

Oberregierungsrat, SS Sturmbannführer, Dr. HANSCH, abt. 40 years old, abt. 180 cms, dark-haired, wearing glasses.

SCHALBURGKORPSET-

§ 15. The detainee explained that about New Year 1942/1943 Hitler gave an order through Himmler, which demanded all the Nazi movements from the occupied countries to be coordinated under the so-called Germanische Leitstelle, which was already in force in the case of Denmark. Through the ministry of foreign affairs in Berlin the detainee inquired about the relation of command, but he never received an answer. In order to secure himself some influence of the development in Denmark, he established a connection with the head of Germanische Leitstelle in Denmark, major BOYSEN, and asked him to report the doings which might occur, as he at the same time promised him economical support. He promised Boyesen the economical support in order to be able to have a certain control of Boyesen's activity, and he did so, because he thought it beneficial for his so-called "good-will-policy", and by doing so he avoided the establishment of an authoritative instance, upon which he had no influence, which might have been of irreparable damage to his policy.

The motive for establishing the Schalburgkorps in the spring 1943 was that they in this way were able to enlist soldiers for the German Wehrmacht, for which reason the detainee supported the undertaking. In the last resort the Schalburgkorps was subordinated to Pnacke with regard to SS-cases, while the political lines of the corps were set up in connection with pure Danish organizations like DNSAP, but the detainee told the leaders that the policy was to be in accordance with the interests of Das Deutsche Reich, in their hand they were not to consider him as a leader of the corps. The detainee maintained that the way compelled the corps to take up arms, but he knew that he would have been able to do so, if necessary.

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The detainee declines having used the corps against the Danish population in any way. On the contrary he says that he in many cases have sent for MARTHINSEN and complained to him about the outward proceedings of the corps.

The detainee knows that Pancke after the police action has called up several men from the Schalburgkorps for service as Hilfspolizei, and Pancke did so without having negotiated with the detainee beforehand, who towards Pancke demanded that these persons never were to act alone, but always should be together with german police men, when they were to turn out.

The actual disorganization of the Schalburgcorps took place in February/March this year, in the detainees opinion, as the members possible in their own initiative tried to establish a new organization, which was to bear the name of "Danish National Assembly" Dansk national Samling. At any rate the detainee has not supported the corps economically after that time apart from the members, who should settle the affair.

9-1 As a final remark the detainee wanted to state that the Schalburgcorps also received orders direct from Berlin from Obergruppenführer BERGER, who was head of SS Hauptamt and Germanische Leitstelle; in this way it happened that members of Schalburgkorps by direct application to Berger had Boysen dismissed as leader of Germanische Leitstelle here in Denmark, without the knowing of the detainee.

