THE MINISTRY CASE

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In 1944, when the German High Command realized that it could not win the war, Otto von Strohmberg was said to have been entrusted with the task of preparing a memorandum on steps to be taken to win the next struggle. Dispatched based on information gathered by the French underground and made available in Washington quoted him as follows:

"This does a provisional defeat matter to us, if, because of the devastation of manpower and material which we will have been able to inflict on our enemies and neighboring territories, we have obtained a margin of economic and demographic superiority greater than before 1939?"

Not Strohmberg's plan is revealed with extraordinary parade to examine the exhaustive material brought to light at the trial of Nazi war officials held in Germany since the end of the war.

Of special interest as concerns the Jewish phase is "The Ministry Case" now taking place in Nuremberg before an American military government tribunal. In this case a number of high ranking officials of the Nazi government and party have been indicted on eight counts including crimes against humanity, as a result of which millions of people were murdered, tortured, starved, enslaved and robbed."

The importance of this case from the Jewish point of view is the fact that it demonstrates clearly how the entire Nazi edifice and every facet of Nazi life played a part as the great conspiracy against the Jews of Europe. Involved were the Foreign Office, the Ministries of Interior, Economics, Food and Agriculture, the Chancellors of the President and Reich Chancellors, the Reich Press Chief and the Reichsbank. These cooperated with the SS, the police, "private" banking and industry to "lead through Europe from East to West" and commit all Jews under their domination to the crematoria, including those of Great Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Spain and Portugal.

This aim is clearly defined in a captured Nazi document, the minutes of a special meeting held on January 20, 1942 to prepare the master plan for the final solution of the Jewish problem. This meeting decided: "Under proper directions, the Jews should, for final solution, be brought west for use as labor. In big camps, with separation of the sexes, the Jews capable of work are employed in rebuilding, in which a greater part will fall out through natural elimination. The remainder, with strongest resistance, will be immediately destroyed, as these people are the best call of a new Jewish problem." Each of the Nazi agencies had its part to play and each fulfilled its role.
On March 29, 1942, the German Foreign Office "had no objections" to the deportation of 6,000 Jewish and stateless Jews to Auschwitz. Three days later, another defendant, reported to the Foreign Office from Budapest on December 30, 1941 that "central and systematic settling of the Jewish question in Serbia is the most urgent and expedient necessity." On April 20, 1942, he reported from Budapest that "starvation May 15, 6,000 Jews will be sent weekly to Auschwitz." Simultaneously, another employee of the department, held up the evocation of thousands of Jewish children in July, 1944, until "the end of the month when the action against the Jews in Hungary will be concluded for the next part and the intervention will have become realistic."

The Ministry of Finance is represented by Wilhelm Frankfurth, State Secretary from 1894 to 1933. In the latter capacity he was equally responsible with the former for the introduction of the infamous Program Law, and the supplementary decree when he personally drafted. At the conference of January 9, 1942, he requested compulsory sterilization of all Jews. Three years later he wrote: "One can consider the aims of the racial legislation as already achieved... It has brought about a preliminary solution of the Jewish problem and, at the same time, substantially prepared the final solution."

The Ministry of Finance is included through its overlord, Stettinius, Minister of Finance, who was charged with collecting the billion mark fine levied against the Jews following the pogroms of November, 1938. His Ministry was the center of Jewish exploitation and a collection point for loot, including that taken from the victims of the extermination centers. In close liaison with the Ministry of Finance was the Reichsbank which, later on, received 75 shipments of valuables from Ruhleben and Sausseh valued at 60 billion Reichsmarks. This latter institution financed the so-called "Reich-Industries" which were operated through the use of slave labor extensively. In all these activities and, particularly in the overwhelming "organisation" of Jewish assets in all occupied countries through organization, recuperation and outright confiscation, the SS were supported by private banks, particularly the Dresdner Bank.

The Ministry for Food and Agriculture compelled Jews from every phase of German agriculture, and instituted a starvation program extending to the occupied territories, particularly Poland. The heads of Hitler's trio of important chancellaries, Goebbels, Goering and Himmler of the Reich and Presidential Chancellories, also contributed their share to the successful "solution" of the Jewish problem. The former was involved in the organization of the Führer's anti-Jewish campaign against the Jews in the Eastern territories with the latter assumed his power in such a manner as to control all the regions of the region.
It was the task of defendant Schirach, Reich's Press Chief and previously Chief of over 3,000 German military and political journals, to condition public opinion for the prosecution and liquidation of the Jews.

The United States Government had played an important role in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice. However, some weeks ago British newspapers in Berlin reported a "strong suspicion" among Americans themselves that German defense attorneys were being assisted by members of the War Crimes Prosecution Staff. In the trial of 16 leading officials of the Kripo (German police force) it was found that after a careful checking of petitions submitted by defense attorneys that they had been first written in English and then translated into German. Defendants have been turned over to defense lawyers who are often found to be familiar with supposedly secret evidential material. In some cases the defense has obtained photographs of material which could only have come from the United States.

This trend of events has created a sense of unwarranted in many quarters. It is being interpreted in the light of military government directives which have been issued and changed to recognize in the United States against the Soviet Union, a nation which has received support from the fact that the European Recovery Program has been paralleled upon the rebuilding of Germany's industrial potential. It has led to the conclusion that the concept of German's guilt as an aggressive nation is being relegated to the scrap of discarded theories along with the remnants of Cam World, the struggle against world reaction and the solidarity of all peoples.

Such a trend does not take account of the number of world powers which still look upon the fascist powers of present day Germany. To those who limit the correctness of this view, a careful reading of General von Kauflom's famous memorandum is strongly recommended.