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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CENTER
APO 757

OI PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION REPORT (PIR) NO 12

PRISONER: NEUMANN, Erich

POSITION: Director General of the
"Deutsches Kali-Syndikat"

1. PERSONAL DATA

a. Chronology

31 May 1892 : Born in FORST, in the region of LAUSITZ

1911 : Graduated from high-school in COTT US

1911-1914 : Studied law at the Universities of FREIBURG,
LEIPZIG and HEIDELBERG

1914-1917 : Served in the German Army as a reserve
lieutenant

1917-1920 : Worked as Regierungsreferendar with the
Regierungspraesident in STETTIN. Appointed
Regierungsassessor in 1920.

Nov 1920-Fall 1921 : Active with the Landrat of HEIDELBERG/Saale as
Regierungsassessor and administrative
assistant (Hilfsarbeiter).

Fall 1921-End 1922 : Same capacity with the Prussian Ministry of
the Interior

1922-1923 : Same capacity with the Landrat of Hesse.
Appointed Regierungsrat at ESSEN in 1923

1923-1926 : Regierungsassessor and administrative assis-
tant with the Prussian Ministry of Commerce

1926-1928 : Landrat at FREYSTADT in Lower Silesia

1928-1932 : Ministerialrat with the Prussian Ministry
of Commerce

1932-1936 : Ministerialdirektor with the Prussian Minister-
praesident (Prime Minister)

1936-Jun 1942 : Staatssekretaer (Under Secretary of State)
with the Foreign Exchange Committee under the
Commissioner of the Four-Year Plan

Jun 1942 : Became Generaldirektor of the Deutsches Kali-
Syndikat G.m.b.H. (German Potash Syndicate)

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b. Memberships

HEUMLIN was a member of the board of directors of the following concerns:

- (1) 1928-1932 : Vereinigte Elektrizitäts- und Bergwerke A.G., BERLIN
- (2) 1934-1942 : Deutsche Revisions & Treuhand A.G., BERLIN
- (3) 1941-1945 : Continental Oel A.G., BERLIN
- (4) 1943-1945 : Reichskredit Ges. (BERLIN)
- (5) 1943-1945 : Reichsbank
- (6) 1943-1945 : Continental Handelsbank, HESTERDAE

Subject joined the Party in 1933. He received the honorary rank of an SS Standartenführer and was promoted to honorary SS Oberführer in 1938. He claims that he was never active in either organization since he objected to anything that would interfere with his duties.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

HEUMLIN was arrested by the 510th C.I.C. Det. at GARTHOFFPARKSTRASSE on 10 May 45 and held by 7th Army Interrogation Center from 15 May 45 until 10 Sep 45. At that time he was transferred to this Center. He carried with him a report entitled "The Four Year Plan". Results of personality card index check: yellow SHEEP cards Nos. 83350 and 83351.

3. KNOWLEDGE: BRIEF

Subject appears well versed in questions of the economic development of Germany from the post World War I period until the present time. He seems familiar with the workings of the Four Year Plan, especially its foreign exchange aspects. He should have extensive knowledge on the activities of the German Potash Syndicate and its constituents, as well as many personalities of industry, Party and possibly Wehrmacht.

4. INTERROGATION PLAN

It is planned to interrogate HEUMLIN on subjects listed in para 3. In addition he will be questioned on his possible knowledge of industrial exploitation of occupied countries, complicity of industrialists in war guilt, his opinions on the reasons for Germany's defeat, his attitude towards the present occupying powers and his ideas on the economic rehabilitation of Germany.

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5. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prisoner will be interrogated along the lines of briefs already received; however, recipients of this report are requested to submit special briefs of any subject upon which the prisoner should be interrogated and to indicate the desired distribution of the resultant report.

HL (EA: RLP)

For the Commanding Officer:

Arthur D. McKibbin

ARTHUR D. Mc KIBBIN
1st Lt. Infantry
Editing Section

11 Oct 45
Distribution: "D"

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Source: NEUMANN, Erich

Position: Director General of the
"Deutsches Kali-Syndikat"

1. REFERENCES

OI-PIR/12, published this Center, 11 Oct 45.

2. REASON FOR REPORT

In answer to brief: "Questionnaire for NEUMANN", IN FIAT HP 254-82 (NEUMANN)
dtd 22 Oct 45.

3. REPORT

a. Introduction.

NEUMANN did not assume the position of General Director of the German Kali Syndicate until 1942, and was not connected with the Syndicate prior to that time. He is unable therefore to reply with exactness to questions concerning the Kali industry in the years 1933-1939.

b. Answers to Brief

(1) Source estimates that 1.5 million tons of K_2O were produced annually in Germany in the years 1933-1939. The corresponding amount of crude ore can be calculated as follows: The raw material contains K_2O in amounts varying between 10 and 20%. Average content runs closer to the lower of these figures. Consequently, source believes, 12% would be a good average yield, bringing annual average output of crude ore to approximately 13 million tons for this period.

NEUMANN is unable to quote any production figures for the Burbach Werke and Kali Chemie A.G. He refers instead to Bergrat a.D. MARNICKE in HISMERSH, who should be able to give detailed information. MARNICKE was once head of the planning group for Kali (Reichsstelle fuer Kali).

(2) The vast majority of the German production of Kali in the years 1933-1939 was used for the manufacture of fertilizers. Source thinks it improbable that more than 5% of the production was used for industrial purposes. Nearly all of the fertilizer was a refined product which contained K_2O in amounts ranging between 50 and 55%. A low content was perhaps more in demand. Small amounts of the unrefined ore were used in the elimination of weeds (Hederich-Kainit product).

(3) Compound fertilizers were used only to a limited extent in Germany. Compound fertilizers were manufactured by the Kali Chemie A.G. (Rhenania Phosphat), by Wintershall A.G. (mixture of potash and nitrogen), and by the I.G. Farbenindustrie (nitrophoska - mixture of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium). Compound fertilizers of Kali and Phosphorus were used before seeding, while Nitrogen mixtures were used as head-fertilizer (Kopfduenger) and about young plants.

(4) For information on pits in use and production figures during the war, source refers to the files of the German Kali Syndicate and to the Planning Group for Kali (Reichsstelle fuer Kali). MARNICKE (see above) should also be able to answer this question.

(5) The Kali industry relied principally upon hard coal as fuel. Only the Wintershall works had converted partially to soft coal, which required a different stove grate. The coal supply for the industry was handled up to the last by the Planning Group for Kali in conjunction with the Planning Group for Coal. Consult MARNICKE on this question.

(6) For information on production of by-products, source suggests a Dr. D'AMB,

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who headed the Kali research institute (Kali Forschungsanstalt) in the building of the German Kali Syndicate in BERLIN. Dr. D'ANE is, according to NEUMANN, a Belgian but most likely a naturalized citizen of Germany. He was last known to reside in BERLIN.

(7) For information on production of bromine, source refers to the files of the department "By-Products" of the German Kali Syndicate. These files were last in the syndicate building in BERLIN. Dr. D'ANE is also suggested in connection with this subject.

(8) Up to the final phase of the war, no damage had been suffered by the manufacturing facilities for bromine. Paralysis of the German transportation system did bring bromine production to a complete halt.

4. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An final interrogation report on NEUMANN is in preparation.

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