

7 MAR 28 1944

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S.F.E.

Mr. Eric W. Staight

December 7, 1944

Ronald Carroll

201-93533

Information on Adolf Hitler and on the murder of Gregor Strasser

In the course of an interview on December 7, 1944 on another topic, Mr. Hans Bie (FN 449) gave the following information. Although I was informed that some staff members of the F.E.A. have doubts of Subject's reliability and believe him to have a tendency to exaggerate, I am passing this information along as it was given with an air of sincerity and truthfulness and seems entirely plausible.

PROFESSOR SAUERBRUCH'S OPINION OF HITLER

Prof. Ferdinand Sauerbruch, the eminent professor of surgery of Berlin University and personal physician to Adolf Hitler, was closely connected with the research department of the Saharung A. G. which, in cooperation with him, conducted cancer research. In January, 1937, at a party given to celebrate Subject's fortieth anniversary with the Saharung Concern, Subject and Prof. Sauerbruch in the course of a private conversation discussed Adolf Hitler. Prof. Sauerbruch then stated that from close observation of Hitler for many years, he had formed the opinion that the Nazi leader was a border case between genius and insanity and that in his opinion the decision would take place in the near future whether Hitler's mind would swing towards the latter. Prof. Sauerbruch then said that should the latter occur, Hitler would become "the craziest criminal the world ever saw".

In April, 1937 when Prof. Sauerbruch and Subject again met, Prof. Sauerbruch stated that in his opinion the swing towards insanity had taken place and that the first symptom was the dismissal of the moderate members of Hitler's government such as Dr. Schacht, that Hitler was completely under the influence of criminals like Himmler, Goebbels and Ley and that Germany was doomed. On Subject's question what he expected Hitler's end to be, Prof. Sauerbruch predicted that the Nazi leader either would have a "romantic end", meaning some kind of "Goetterdaemmerung" like suicide on his mountain retreat near Berchtesgaden, or would die in an insane asylum.

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HITLER'S THROAT OPERATION

In 1935 a throat operation was performed on Hitler by Prof. Carl von Eicken, the ear, nose and throat specialist of Berlin University. Subject, however, did not know any details about the operation.

GREGOR STRASSER'S MURDER

Gregor Strasser, who until December 1932, when he was replaced by Robert Ley, was chief organizer of the Nazi Party and as such was surpassed in importance in the party organization only by Hitler, in April 1933 was elected in the "Vorstand" of Schering. His specific functions there were labor relations and in particular contact with the Nazi labor union, the Deutsche Arbeitsfront.

As is commonly known, Gregor Strasser was liquidated in the Nazi blood purge of June, 1934. The official version then given out by the Nazis was that Strasser was arrested and had committed suicide in his cell. From Strasser's widow, however, Subject was told that Strasser was shot through the back of the head, a wound he could not have inflicted himself.

Settlement of the Strasser estate was entrusted to Subject and Dr. Carlos Wetzel, a member of the "Vorstand" of Schering. The most important asset of the Strasser estate was a life insurance policy for RM 20,000 issued by the Allianz & Stuttgarter Lebensversicherungsbank A.G. This policy, however, contained a clause that no payment should be made if death of the insured occurred through suicide. In view of this clause and of the official version of Strasser's death, the insurance company refused payment. To help Strasser's widow the services of Dr. Georg Eschstruth, a well-known Berlin attorney with much influence in the Nazi party and a fraternity brother of Dr. Hans Berckmeyer, chairman of the board of Schering, was engaged. Dr. Eschstruth submitted the case to Hitler who made the following decision:

1. The insurance company was ordered to pay the RM 20,000 to Strasser's widow.
2. The insurance company was reimbursed with this amount by the Nazi Party.
3. Strasser's children, then 11 and 12 years respectively, whose godfather Hitler was, were each to receive RM 6,000 per year from Nazi Party funds until they reached the age of 18.

R. C.

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