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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

GER: R. H. HARLAN UNCLASSIFIED *reproduced 2*
 (7) DEPARTMENT OF STATE *3620.054/103*
 Telephone *11 8626.331*
 Memorandum of Conversation *5620.19*
 2 53 *CIA*
 DATE October 30, 1958

SUBJECT: Law 27 Decoconcentration; Krupp

MESSAGE CENTER

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Arthur Brittenden, London Sun Express
 Mr. Robert H. Harlan, GER/GRA

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3620.331

Mr. Brittenden telephoned from New York to say that he had a call from his home office in London concerning the problem of the breakup of the Krupp empire which he understood was required under certain legislation by March of next year. Mr. Brittenden asked if Mr. Harlan could give him any background information concerning this general problem.

Mr. Harlan said that he was in no sense an expert on this problem and did not deal with it directly but would be glad to sketch in some general background information about which he was aware. He stated that the present situation in Germany arose out of earlier military government and Allied High Commission legislation with respect to decartialization and decoconcentration, particularly in the coal, iron and steel industries. When the Bonn Conventions were negotiated, provision was included in the so-called Settlement Convention for the Federal German Government to maintain in force the Allied High Commission decartialization legislation for so long as there remained to be carried out decoconcentration measures which had been ordered. Mr. Harlan observed that the vast majority of the decoconcentration orders have been carried out but there are a few remaining, including those involving some Krupp properties. The orders in question were to have been carried out 5 years after they entered into force, which was in March 1954, so that in the absence of any developments in the meantime these particular outstanding orders would have to be carried out by March 1959.

Mr. Brittenden

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Mr. Brittonden said that his home office had asked him to check on stories circulating in London to the effect that the British and the U.S. were planning to make an approach to Krupp in the near future with proposals looking to a resolution of what seemed to be a stalemate. Mr. Harlan said he had not heard these stories and that they seemed implausible to him since the obligation under the Settlement Convention is one assumed by the Federal German Government and any discussions might be assumed to be the result of German initiative and would normally be expected to take place between representatives of the Federal German Government and the three signatories of the Bonn Convention, i.e. U.K., U.S. and France.

Mr. Brittonden said he had been over in Germany about 18 months ago writing a story on this subject and that he understood discussions had been going on at that time. Mr. Harlan observed that there have been continuing discussions of the general problem for many months - principally in Bonn. Mr. Brittonden asked if it would not be correct to assume that in view of the approaching March deadline for the breakup of the Krupp empire any action to be taken would have to be agreed on fairly soon. Mr. Harlan said this seemed reasonable and added that it might be appropriate to point out, by way of further background information, that it would be inaccurate to characterize the problem as one involving "the breakup of the Krupp empire" since, as he had noted earlier, a vast deconcentration program had actually been carried out and completed in West Germany and there were only a few deconcentration orders outstanding where action had not yet been completed. He added that it was also his recollection that a number of Krupp properties had been included in earlier deconcentration measures which had been carried out.

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