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SYNOPSIS OR BRIEF REPORT:

Attached herewith is Max JORDAN's complete report on Hans WALZ and on the latter's connection with Dr. Karl GOERDELER as requested in Heid. Cable No. 410.

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I have known Hans Walz of Stuttgart for some 25 years. During all that time he was closely connected with the firm of Robert Bosch there. The late Robert Bosch himself had the reputation from his early youth of being one of the staunchest defenders and most articulate believers in popular government. He was widely known to be out of sympathy with kaiserism and militarism, no matter of what description. When Hitler came to power Bosch did not conceal his aversion to his regime. As a matter of fact, he refused repeatedly to meet Hitler personally. Only after his associates had pointed out to him that it might serve a good purpose if he tried to use his authority in order to bring pressure upon the nazi leader did Bosch consent to call on him. The meeting was an utter failure and Bosch never made another attempt to influence the regime.

At that time Hans Walz was general manager of the Bosch plants and Robert Bosch's closest adviser. It was due to him that Dr. Karl Goerdeler was presented to Bosch and subsequently engaged by the firm as their economic adviser. Goerdeler's employment was meant to cover up his activities designed to organize an effective opposition against the nazi regime. After considerable hesitation Walz who saw eye to eye with Robert Bosch on all basic issues, accepted membership in the nazi party. He did this because he felt that by having access to inner party circles he would prevent measures detrimental to his firm which were known to be contemplated by the Stuttgart Gauleiter. It was a question of using whatever inside tracks were available to counteract the nazi scheme to gain control of the worldwide Bosch interests. Had they succeeded it would have meant not only great economic and financial advantages in the promotion of the nazi war plot, but at the same time the elimination of all cultural activities of the Bosch concern which had been built up over a period of many years and had all been pursued with a liberal and progressive aim in mind.

However, nazi pressure on Bosch increased constantly. Walz, upon learning that a local SS man by the name of Berger who had been Gauleiter Murr's bitter rival ever since the nazis' advent to power was amenable to bribes, established contact with Berger and used him from then on to prevent active interference on the Gauleiter's part with the Bosch interests. This and other contacts Walz maintained with the nazi party must be understood in the light of the extremely intricate circumstances then prevailing. Men like Walz knew that an open opposition to the nazi regime would have meant their immediate physical elimination. The only

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effective action was the one carried out under cover.

Goerdeler himself who probably was the chief German conspirator against Hitler and was executed by the Gestapo early in 1945 because he was implicated in the attempt on Hitler's life on July 20, 1944 urged Walz repeatedly that he should maintain his membership in various nazi organizations which he held in his capacity as an industrial leader, because in this way valuable channels of information could be provided constantly and at the same time nazi officials be kept in the dark with regard to important moves of the opposition groups.

From my own frequent contacts with Goerdeler, Walz and his associates in the years 1939-41 I can say that Walz was the prime mover behind the Goerdeler conspiracy. He was the one who recommended Goerdeler's employment to Bosch. Likewise he was instrumental in making ample financial means available to Goerdeler, means far above the salary he might have received under normal circumstances. This money was used by Goerdeler to finance his antinazi activities on a wide scale and he did so with the full knowledge and approval of Walz. If it had not been for this support given by Walz, Goerdeler could not have mobilised so important and widespread an organization which maintained contact not only with important leaders all through Germany, but also with foreign governments.

I was in a position to obtain information on Goerdeler's and Walz' activities because of my frequent visits to Germany in those years. I know that Walz was fully aware of Goerdeler's efforts to arouse the Allied governments to a full realization of the nazi threat. As a matter of fact, Walz commissioned his associate Willy Schlosstein of Stuttgart to be a sort of special agent for this work in the foreign field. I met Schlosstein in Switzerland frequently up to the entry of the U.S. into the war. Information then obtained I made available to both the State and War Departments in Washington. General Sherman Miles who was then Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, in Washington received my full report on Goerdeler's and Walz' activities in the summer of 1940. It was the gist of this report that the Goerdeler-Walz group was anxious to obtain Allied support for their elaborate plans for the overthrow of the Hitler regime. Subsequently, in the Spring of 1942 I gave additional pertinent information to Major General (then Colonel) Wm. J. Donovan, just prior to the organization of the OSS.

After Robert Bosch's death during the war, Hans Walz took over for him and became the main backer for the whole Goerdeler movement. Had it not been for his underground contacts with nazi organizations and for the considerable sums of money he spent to give support to the antinazi opposition, some of the men who escaped the Gestapo executioner would not be alive today. Hans

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Walz is one of them himself. Another one is Baurat Fischer in Stuttgart who now heads the Bosch organization and was kept in a concentration camp for quite some time. Also Willy Schlosstein and Theodore Baeuerle, both in Stuttgart. All these men were temporarily arrested and not released until Walz had succeeded in bribing SS man Berger.

Walz also supplied considerable funds to Jewish friends of his, helping them to escape and providing them with cash through banking connections in Holland. Also he spoke up on more than one occasion, particularly at Robert Bosch's funeral, denouncing the nazi regime at a time when it meant risking one's neck.

Walz is a man of deep Christian convictions. There can be no possible doubt that he opposed the nazis from the very outset and consistently. In his exposed position as a responsible leader of German industry he could not help becoming affiliated with some nazi organizations, if he wanted to avoid his enterprise being taken over by nazi interests. This would have affected numerous people who were out of sympathy with the regime and would have submitted to nazi control organizations which succeeded to keep alive through Walz' help all during the war, even though they pursued aims diametrically opposed to nazi ideas.

There are instances in Germany of people who carried water on both shoulders, people who played the nazi game and at the same time helped the opposition to insure themselves for the future. I would hold no brief for Walz if he belonged to that category, but he did not. Anyone acquainted with this man should be in a position to state that he is a real gentleman, a true democrat and a sincere friend of the Allies. That the latter should now indict him on mere technical grounds without giving proper credit despite ample evidence available in his favor seems almost incredible.

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