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TRIALS
OF
WAR CRIMINALS
BEFORE THE
NUERNBERG MILITARY TRIBUNALS
UNDER
CONTROL COUNCIL LAW No. 10



VOLUME VII

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"The Farben Case"

Military Tribunal VI

Case 6

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

—AGAINST—

CARL KRAUCH, HERMANN SCHMITZ, GEORG VON
SCHNITZLER, FRITZ GAJEWSKI, HEINRICH HOER-
LEIN, AUGUST VON KNIEREM, FRITZ TER MEER,
CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER, OTTO AMBROS, MAX
BRUEGGEMANN, ERNST BUERGIN, HEINRICH BUETE-
FISCH, PAUL HAEFLIGER, MAX ILGNER, FRIEDRICH
JAEHNE, HANS KUEHNE, CARL LAUTENSCHLAEGER,
WILHELM MANN, HEINRICH OSTER, KARL WUR-
STER, WALTER DUERRFELD, HEINRICH GATTINEAU,
ERICH VON DER HEYDE, and HANS KUGLER, officials
of I.G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKTIENGESellschaft,
Defendants

III

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PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NI-14543
PROSECUTION EXHIBIT 1985

EXTRACTS FROM FARBEN-AUSCHWITZ WEEKLY REPORT NO. 11, FOR THE PERIOD 3-9 AUGUST 1941, CONCERNING CONFERENCES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP ON ASSIGNMENT OF INMATES, DIFFICULTIES IN UTILIZING INMATES, PROCUREMENT OF BARBED WIRE AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR A FENCE AROUND THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION SITE, REQUEST THAT FLOGGING OF INMATES BE TRANSFERRED FROM CONSTRUCTION SITE TO INSIDE OF CONCENTRATION CAMP, AND OTHER MATTERS

I. G. Farbenindustrie Aktiengesellschaft
Auschwitz (Upper Silesia) Works

Auschwitz 9 Aug. 1941
Fst/Go

Weekly Report No. 11 for the period 3-9 August

Preliminary Report

Various conferences with the commandant and his assistants about the assignment of inmates have taken place. As you know, the assignment of two more guard companies have been refused. Through the intervention of the Reichsfuehrer SS, it has now been ordered that all concentration camps are to detach 75 guards for duty at Auschwitz. Of this number, 40 have already arrived during the week covered by this report. In this way, it is possible for the concentration camp to assign another 1,000 inmates in addition to the 816 already employed at present. Of course, this could not be done from one day to the next. In any case, it was possible to increase the number of inmates employed from 800 to 1,000 as of Friday, 8 August 1941. During the course of next week, approximately another 700-800 men are to be assigned, if possible.

The assignment of inmates is causing difficulties, because due to the lack of guards—

1. They can always only be assigned in groups of at least 20 or more. The consequence of this is that, in some places, they are working together so closely that they are hindering each other. That is just a fundamental difference between the working methods of a concentration camp and of a free enterprise. The concentration camp has no need to consider economic principles but in free enterprise this must be done; particularly, when it is a case of firms working at standard rates. This is not always sufficiently taken into consideration and recognized by the officials of the concentration camp.

2. The inmates can only march out in daylight and must return to the camp in daylight. If it is foggy in the morning, the inmates are also not permitted to leave the camp. Therefore it is not pos-

able to employ the inmates on shift work; they can only be considered for the day shift.

The conditions will naturally improve once the construction site has been fenced in. The preparations for this have been made so that the fencing can be done by the end of the month. It is now planned to use concrete posts, which are being made in the concentration camp, and barbed wire and wire netting, which we are obtaining from the wire drawing mill in Gleiwitz.

We have furthermore drawn the attention of the officials of the concentration camp to the fact that, in the last few weeks, the inmates are being severely flogged on the construction site by the Capos in increasing measure, and this always applies to the weakest inmates who really cannot work harder. The exceedingly unpleasant scenes that occur on the construction site because of this are beginning to have a demoralizing effect on the free workers (Poles), as well as on the Germans. We have therefore asked that they should refrain from carrying out this flogging on the construction site and transfer it to the inside of the concentration camp.

* * * * *

[Stamp]

Buna Auschwitz

Dr. Ambros

Dr. Buetefisch/Dr. v. Staden

Santo

Dr. Mach

Dr. Eisfeld

Dr. Duerrfeld

Faust

Heidebroek

[Handwritten] Certified Engineer Rasch

PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NI-15254
PROSECUTION EXHIBIT 2208

EXTRACTS FROM FARBEN-AUSCHWITZ WEEKLY REPORT NO. 13 FOR
THE PERIOD 17-23 AUGUST 1941, CONCERNING DIFFICULTIES WITH
POLES AND ETHNIC GERMANS, PUNISHMENT BY ASSIGNMENT TO
CONCENTRATION CAMP AUSCHWITZ FOR 2 MONTHS, AND RELATED
MATTERS

Weekly Report No. 13 for the period from 17 to 23 August 1941

* * * * *

About 40 leading officials of the authorities took part in this conference; that is, representatives of all the agencies located in Bielitz (local court, provincial court, post office, chamber of commerce, lord

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themselves were by far the biggest enterprises in the chemical domain in Germany. * * * It has always been characteristic of the German chemical industry that there was, on one side, this huge conglomeration of industrial power called IG, and, on the other hand, an extremely great number of small enterprises split over the whole country * * * It is not only that new inventions of outstanding importance were practically alone made by IG and that research work on a large scale was exclusively done by IG, but that the real importance of IG in her capacity as a supplier of all basic products to the other chemical industries was even higher * * * Taken together with the overwhelming position IG has in the field of photographic products and the strong majority in nitrogen, one has to make the statement that chemistry in Germany and IG are to a great extent synonymous."

Farben's factories and technicians were one of the two great industrial resources of Germany, the other being the coal mine and steel plants of the Ruhr. It is no coincidence that Ludendorff consorted with Duisberg and Krupp von Bohlen, and the famous German diplomat Stresemann once rhetorically asked the defendant von Schnitzler: "What have I as a trump in my hand apart from you, the IG, and the coal people?" Carl Duisberg played a leading part in the establishment of the nationwide organization of industrialists, the Reichsverband der Deutschen Industrie [Reich Association of German Industry]. The chairmanship of this organization was usually held by Farben or Krupp officials. Relations between Farben and the Ruhr heavy industries were reasonably close; Farben owned coal mines and held stock interests in the big steel enterprises, and the defendant Schmitz sat on the Aufsichtsrat of the huge German steel combine, the Vereinigte Stahlwerke.

But the German iron lords never achieved the complete union which the chemical leaders brought about through the Farben merger, and there can be little doubt that Farben was the most powerful single industrial combine in Germany and, indeed, in Europe. It produced all of Germany's magnesium, nickel, methanol, and synthetic rubber, and nearly all of its dyestuffs. It produced the bulk of Germany's nitrogen, synthetic gasoline, and numerous important chemicals. It produced half of Germany's pharmaceuticals and more than half of its photographic supplies. It dominated the German explosives industry. It enjoyed close relations with the German Government long before Hitler came to power; the defendant Schmitz was a close associate of Chancellor

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...llor Bruening, and another Farben director, Warmbold, became Minister of Economics.

In the laboratories of Farben, many amazing experiments were being carried to successful conclusions. New inventions and processes poured forth in a never-ending stream; most of them were of inestimable actual or potential value to mankind. And, long before Hitler achieved notoriety, Farben officials were wrestling with two problems, the successful solution of which would go far to make Germany economically self-sufficient, and independent of imports in time of war. One of these was the manufacture of synthetic rubber which, by 1932, had not yet advanced beyond the stage of promising experimental production. But the other was solved soon after the merger of 1926, through the famous Farben hydrogenation process by which Germany's coal could be transformed into oil, gasoline, and other synthetic fuels and lubricants. The tremendous significance of this discovery is eloquently reflected in a letter written at that time, 1926, by Frank Howard, an official of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, to its president, Walter Teagle, from which quote:

"Based upon my observations and discussion today, I think that this matter is the most important which has ever faced the company since the dissolution.*

"The Badische"—the reference being to one of the Farben factories—"can make high grade motor oil fuel from lignite and other low quality coal in amounts up to half the weight of the coal. This means absolutely the independence of Europe in the matter of gasoline supply. Straight price competition is all that is left * * *

"I shall not attempt to cover any details, but I think this will be evidence of my state of mind."

We do not stress these circumstances because any social or economic questions, such as the limits, if any, which should be placed on the size of corporations, are in any way germane to the case. They are not. But the size of the Farben empire and the strategic importance of Farben techniques must be grasped in order to understand the significance of the events which took place during the period covered by the indictment. Farben was Germany's greatest single industrial resource. Countless other industries were entirely dependent on Farben products. Farben techniques held the key to many of the problems which the Wehrmacht wished to solve. The Germany economy could not

*The reference, presumably, is to the dissolution of the original Standard Oil Company under the American anti-trust laws.