

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. NIK - 8575
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

Joseph WIRTH

Luzern, 9 August 1949

L u z e r n
Haldenstrasse 7

Herr President Dr. KRUPP, Esq. of Bohlen-Halbach,
Essen.

Highly esteemed Mr. President,

Swiss newspapers circulate the report, that in appreciation of your services for rearming the German Wehrmacht, you have been awarded as the first German the war merit cross 1st class.

I have the honor to inform you that this fact has been noted readily in my records and at the same time I recall with satisfaction the years of 1920 till 1923, when together with Herr Direktor Dr. WIEDTFELD both of us were able to lay new foundations for the development of the German armament technique (Waffentechnik) through your great and most significant firm.

Herr Reich-President von HIN-
DENBURG, as is well known, had been informed of it. His reaction also was very creditable though nothing of which has as yet been disclosed in public.

(page 2 of original)

I also write down these lines to add them to my files, which already contain the well known letter of Dr. WIEDTFELD of 1921, stating that your most respected firm was assured of 10 years service for the government on account of my initiative as the Reich - Chancellor and Reich Minister of Finances, by releasing considerable means of the Reich for the preservation of German armament technique.

I repeat this matter in a purely personal and confidential way without thinking of making these lines available to the public. The fact being that, approximately 2 years ago the

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. NIK 8575
CONTINUED

(page 2 of original, cont'd.)

Reich Government has made it known through the ambassador in Paris, that any publication about previous preparations for the recovery of the national freedom would be discouraged.

With regard to imminent decisive fighting there is also no need for it. Still, our hearts are very much in the events of these days. I meditate on thoughts of peace, without of course being able to leave the reserve imposed on me. Since the days of WIEDTFELD I have cultivated good relations with the U.S.A. which I was able to test as recently as last year on the occasion of a long journey of a purely private character. Equipped with experiences of the World War and of the post war period I am inclined to wish that we shall be spared the war with the U.S.A. in spite of the concern caused by some reports from the U.S.A.

(page 3 of original)

With the greatest respect I have the honor to remain yours most devoted.

signature: Joseph WIRTH.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

29 July 1947

I, Robert HOFFMAN, Civ. No. 20 109, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document No. NIK 8575.

Robert HOFFMAN
Civ. No. 20 109