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Confidential !

N o t e s

on a Discussion at Liaison Office for Journalism and Press in Duess-
dorf, 28 December 1938.

Subject: War Economy Research Office.

With Herrn Helmuth POENSGEN presiding, the following persons participated in the discussion:

Dr. WIEL,	Chief of War Economy Research Office
Dr. PETERSEN,	
STEINBERG,	
SCHNEIDER,	MANNESMANN,
IHN,	Fried. KRUPP,
SIEBRUCHT,	HOESCH A.G.
PINKERNELLE,	Bergbaulicher Verein (Mining
General KUEHNE,	Association),
BAARE.	

WIEL first reported on the organization and the tasks of the War Economy Research Office (Forschungsstelle). This is an independent establishment financed by the Wehrmacht, receiving its orders only from the High Command of the Wehrmacht. It works together with Captain DOSE of Group VI. It gets all the assignments connected with economic warfare. The Research Office has been cooperating with scientific institutions interested in economics, in Hamburg and Kiel for example, with the Eastern Europe Institute in Koenigsberg, the Foreign Commerce Office in Vienna, the Trade Research Institute, the Fair offices in Leipzig and Koenigsberg. Purpose is to provide material from abroad. Furthermore, it is intended to work for a closer contact with economy, that is, in practice.

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It is desired to establish connection with institutions in the Rhineland and Westfalia, and with other Duesseldorf agencies.

STEINBERG remarks in that connection that he already contacted the Technical High Schools in Cologne and Aix-la-Chapelle on the question of cooperation, but that so far efforts were fruitless. Among other things, he refers to the writings of Regierungsrat SCHOL on the Belgian and French iron ore industry.

H. POENSGEN remarks that I.G. Farben has excellent information on foreign countries. Matters are different where iron ore is concerned, and only big concerns have the necessary material. Von SCHOEN's report is less concerned with matters pertaining to war economy, but he would nevertheless recommend its study. Herr NIEBUHR also did some writing on the English coal industry; this, perhaps, could be supplemented further. WINNACKER has written on

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the English coal industry. PETERSEN also has a great deal of material; sales establishments would likewise be in a position to make material available. In his opinion the Liaison Office for Iron Journalism and Press is the proper agency to supply pertinent information.

POENSGEN then continues briefly to describe his activity and the activities of the Liaison Office. Among other things the creation of a big steel film is contemplated.

WIEL approves of the idea that the War Economy Research Office direct its correspondence through the liaison bureau, which was expected to supply the material and that as a matter of precaution the correspondence was to be directed to Dr. STEINBERG personally only. Material dealing with economic experiences during the last world war would likewise be desirable.

STEINBERG refers to the book of Stollwaag, of which only 2 copies are available, one with Dr. PETERSEN, the other one with Dr. REICHERT.

PETERSEN is of the opinion that this book is very valuable also for the work to be done by the concerns, and that one should find a way to make a copy available at least to each of the six leading concerns in the West. As far as he knew some other agency

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still had an additional 10 to 12 copies available (War Ministry?). Dr. REICHERT should do what is necessary to find out about this and should try to obtain these copies. General KUEHNE also should receive a copy.

Helmuth POENSGEN. In his opinion the primary task of the War Economy Research Office was how to interfere with the economy of other countries.

WIEL: The task of the War Economy Research Office is not only an offensive but also a defensive one. Example: The possibility to obtain Swedish iron ore in case of war. The Reich Navy probably will be able to keep the Baltic Sea open only as far as the Bothnian Bay. Could one possibly prevail on Sweden to extend their railway system further?

PETERSEN: Remarks that we are already working together with six agencies. General von HANNEKEN is said to have all the material on iron ore requirements and also on other questions. There is the danger of increasing confusion through inclusion of the War Economy Research Institute. It would be necessary to clearly circumscribe the tasks.

Helmuth POENSGEN once more outlines the tasks of the Research Office as follows:

- 1) Interference with enemy economy
- 2) Maintenance of connection with foreign countries as regards raw material and food requirements.

Handling of these questions would involve overlapping with other offices, for example, with the Counter Espionage Offices, with General von HANNEKEN, and others.

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PETERSEN stresses once more that he already is working together with six other agencies. General von HANNEKEN is said to be thoroughly informed about the situation arising from iron ore requirements.

WIEL remarks that he also desires to avoid duplication of work.

Helmut POENSGEN: Dr. WIEL would have to contact

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other offices in the Reich Ministry of Economics, Reich War Ministry, High command of the Wehrmacht and others already having such material and make it available.

STEINBERG remarks that he does not think it practicable to create something like a clearing office with the Liaison Office in Duesseldorf. WIEL should approach PETERSEN directly in all technical questions, and the Economy Group (Wirtschaftsgruppe) where economic questions are concerned.

Helmut POENSGEN opposes this suggestion. It is better to create an office in Duesseldorf which handles the correspondence - and most appropriately with the Liaison Office - which forwards inquiries to the Research Office. It would then also be possible to advise the Research Office which agencies have already received the needed material and where the Research Office could obtain such material. Confidential reports and other matters could in any case be made available.

SIEBRECHT remarks that Herr TGAHRT has written a very interesting report on the American iron ore industry after his last trip to the United States.

The last suggestion of Herr Helmut POENSGEN finds approval.

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, ERNA E. UIBERALL, AGO No. D-150096, 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. NI-047.

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