

H. Glaesener,
Conseiller de Gouvernement
19, rue de Nassau
Luxemburg

 A F F I D A V I T

I, the undersigned, Dr. jur Hyazinth Glaesener, Regierungsrat, of 19 Nassauerstr., Luxemburg, having been duly advised that I shall ~~render myself liable to punishment~~ by making a false statement, herewith declare, for use in court, and especially before the American Military Tribunal in Nuernberg, the following in connection with the Krupp Trial, Defendant Professor Dr. Ing. Edouard Houdremont:

Herr Houdremont assisted my family for the first time when my sister, Frau Kolbach of Luxemburg, whose husband, an engineer at the Arbedwerke, was in a concentration camp from December 1941 to the end of the war because illegal patriotic activities, was to be evicted for that reason. Fortunately she had a severe heart attack and was lying in bed when the Gestapo came to her apartment so that she could not be moved. During the fortnight's grace the official doctor had given her my sister decided to flee, and it was Herr Houdremont who offered shelter in his home to her and her thirteen year old daughter. They lived with the Houdremont family until the eve of the liberation of Luxemburg, in Essen until 1943, and then in the Black Forest.

I was dismissed from my post at the beginning of 1943 when I was told to look for another position anywhere, so long as it was outside Luxemburg. Herr Houdremont learnt of this from my sister and offered me immediately a position in a purely commercial department of Krupp in accordance with my qualifications, if I wanted it, which would get me out of all the political difficulties which had brought about my dismissal. I accepted, whereupon Herr Houdremont stated, I would of course live at his house during my stay in Essen. Thus I was given an opportunity, from 1 May 1943 to August 1944, of living in close daily contact with Herr Houdremont, and of familiarizing myself thoroughly with his opinions, his character, his way of life, and his friends and acquaintances.

Herr Houdremont's personality is characterized, apart from his exceptional

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mental powers which no one can dispute, by his simplicity, his sincerity, his honesty and his idealism, and by his consideration for others and consequently his willingness to help any one at any time. All those who at any time stood in need of advice, consolation or assistance were drawn by his sympathy. I doubt if anybody was ever sent away emptyhanded, and during my stay in Essen many of his friends and acquaintances made veiled reference to cases in which Herr Houdremont had saved people from dire distress. Tales of woe invariably aroused in him warm sympathy and generous willingness to render assistance. How that willingness was shown in the case of my sister and of myself has already been mentioned.

I should however like to point out particularly that Herr Houdremont went to incredible lengths to procure, for the evacuees from Luxemburg who were leading a miserable existence in several camps in Eastern Germany, 10 families having to share one single room in many instances, an independent existence as free men outside the resettlement camps. Every trip to Berlin was made the occasion of further representations to the authorities concerned, made with an assiduity which prompted some of his colleagues to give him the well meant advice not to involve himself in unnecessary trouble. Unfortunately his efforts were frequently foiled by the regulations issued by the Party authorities and by the policy of the people then in power in Luxemburg, so that they were only successful in part.

Herr Houdremont made special efforts to have my brother-in-law Kolbach, who has been mentioned above, and who was then in Mauthausen Concentration Camp/ Every effort was made by referring to his technical qualifications as an engineer to have him released for work at Essen, because reports from former fellow sufferers in Hinzert disciplinary camp gave us cause to fear the worst for his state of health, the more so ^{as} we had been without news of him for many months. As I could see from the correspondence, these efforts met with no success.

I was again compelled to appeal to Herr Houdremont, on behalf of two brothers of my wife's, Herr Francois Gracco, who was at that

time director of the Banque Nationale de Belgique at Brussels, and who is now Gouverneur-adjoint of the International Zone in Tangier, and José Gracco, who was then an attorney-at-law in Antwerp. They had both been sentenced by the Tribunal of the Air Gau Commando at Brussels for leading an organization which assisted allied pilots who had made forced landings, the former to seven years' imprisonment; the latter to death. When my parents-in-law informed me of the death sentence I immediately left for the Black Forest where Herr Houdremont was spending his vacation. Thanks to his intervention the death sentence was not carried out, but my brother-in-law unfortunately died in Flossenbuerg Camp in 1945, probably in an epidemic.

I doubt if anybody ever made less use of his position for his own ends than Herr Houdremont. His simplicity was amply illustrated by the modesty and lack of ostentation displayed in his home and in his way of life. He was opposed to all luxury, and to all display. His leisure hours were exclusively devoted to chamber music in which he was passionately interested and which alone, he said, made life worth living, or to the study of philosophic writings, which fascinated him, and finally to writing. He did not take the least interest in politics, and, honest as he was, he detested the behavior of the Party functionaries and of the Gestapo. Why, on innumerable occasions he expressed in my presence and in the presence of others **his sympathy** with the downtrodden nations especially those of the occupied East, and, when V weapons were used, with the population of Great Britain and Belgium. To him, who had always been a champion of the idea of international collaboration on the broadest possible basis, race discrimination and theories of master race and claims to power made not the slightest appeal.

From various veiled references Herr Houdremont made, particularly on the occasion of a conversation with Herr v. Buclow, who was, at that time, security commissioner of Krupps, I gathered that he was not exactly considered reliable in Party circles. Herr v. Buclow had had the kindness to attempt to find out where my brother-in-law Jose^bGracco was, who had been sentenced to death. Unfortunately he was unsuccessful. In that connection I visited him several times. When I told him on the occasion of one of these visits that I was about to make a trip in order to get in touch somehow with my other

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~~brother-in-law, Francois Gracco~~, whose whereabouts I had been able to ascertain, he gladly settled some formalities to help me on my journey and wished me every success, but warned and implored me to be extremely careful; he could easily imagine what my attitude and my state of mind must be after all that had happened in Luxemburg, and he sympathized with me, but I must never forget that the slightest slip and the least indiscretion on my part would endanger not only myself, but would also be Houdremont's death sentence. Everyone so close to the armaments industry was sitting on a keg of gunpowder, and I should be as careful as possible out of consideration for Herr Houdremont.

In Houdremont's house there were no carousings, nor grand receptions, but those who visited it were friends and acquaintances who were of one mind, who took every opportunity of voicing their anti-Nazi opinions, who gave vent, in the strongest possible language, to their detestation and indignation at the Party and the Gestapo and who profoundly regretted Germany's cultural decline. I shall always recall with pleasure the interesting conversations and discussions in that company, when the most commonplace of subject was raised by dint of a high spiritual atmosphere to sublime heights. Herr Houdremont would have given his last penny for these friends, and it was with them that he shared what small material luxuries remained to him during these years of war.

Needless to say the attitude and the actions of every member of the Houdremont family, including the staff, was identical with that of Herr Houdremont. -

Luxemburg, 11 November 1947
signed: H. Glaesener

I, the undersigned, Tony Neumann, Notary in Luxemburg, horewith certify that the above is the signature of Herr Hyazinth Glaesener, Regierungsrat, of Luxemburg, and that it was appended in my presence.

Luxemburg, 12 November 1947
signed: T. Neumann
Seal
Tony Neumann,
Notary in Luxemburg.