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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

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APO 696 A

29 March 1948

Col Edward H. Young, GSC
Chief of War Crimes Branch
Civil Affairs Division
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

Dear Col Young:

Have just received your communication requesting the testimony of Walter von Schellenberg and Ernst Wilhelm Bohle. As you already know, both of these individuals are defendants in the Ministries Case (No. 11). The prosecution has just completed as of yesterday its case-in-chief, and the Court is in recess until 5 May when the defense will begin its case. Therefore, as you can see, at this time your request of furnishing their testimony cannot be complied with and can be complied with only if and when these individuals take the stand to testify. My guess would be that for Bohle that will be sometime in the latter part of May or early June, and for Schellenberg sometime in July.

Since your office always receives the transcript of the trial, you could undoubtedly extract the required information that is available, or this office could make a particular point of sending to you for forwarding a special copy of the transcript at the time that these individuals testify.

Please advise as to whether you will use your transcript for this purpose or whether you wish an additional copy in the case of these particular individuals.

Incidentally, I understand Bohle has pleaded guilty. The Defense Counsel has submitted a motion to the Court - just after the prosecution closed its case - to change Bohle's plea of "Not Guilty" to "Guilty" so far as Counts 5 and 8 of the indictment are concerned. Count 8 concerns membership in criminal organizations. Count 5 concerns persecution on political, racial, and religious grounds. As far as count 5 is concerned, Bohle wants to plead "Guilty" concerning his connection with or responsibility for eliminating persons of Jewish descent from economic and cultural life. However, he stressed the point that he had nothing to do with the so-called final solution of the Jewish question and the prosecution does not charge him insofar.

In the indictment Bohle was charged with participation in aggressive war plans and spoliation. However, the prosecution intends to drop these two charges in view of the change of his plea to the other counts, since our evidence regarding Bohle's participation in aggressive war plans and spoliation is weak.

Concerning Bohle's part with the British Intelligence, nothing has been discussed in the course of this trial or the interrogations preceding the trial.

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It may be added that Schellenberg's imprisonment in the British Camp O20 has never been discussed in the course of this trial or in the interrogations connected with the trial. However, the prosecution would be glad to furnish any information they can get upon the specific inquiries being made. I learned from Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner, who has had many talks with Bohle, that Bohle is always willing to talk when specific questions are asked.

Hoping this gives you sufficient information on which to base your reply, I am.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ AUTREY J. MAROUN
AUTREY J. MAROUN
Lt Col INF
Executive Officer

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