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Supplemental Brief Re: "Honorary Membership in the SS"

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MILITARY TRIBUNAL VI

CASE NO. 11

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-against-

ERNST VON WEIZSAECKER AND OTHERS

SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF RE:
"HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE SS"

By: Morris Amchan
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Walter T. Schonfeld

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Chief of Counsel for War Crimes

OF COUNSEL:

Paul H. Gantt
Director
Special Projects Division

Nurnberg,
16 November 1948

This Supplemental Brief is being filed to call the attention of the Tribunal to a fact which appears to have been overlooked in the discussion of the so-called "honorary membership in the SS".

In the principal brief reference is made to various decisions indicating that in 1935 the position of honorary membership in the SS was abolished. The record in this case contains proof of the fact that after 23 January 1936, the honorary membership was abolished by decree.

A representative letter from Himmler's Office, addressed to the defendant DIETRICH, indicates that all honorary members were informed of the decree abolishing this title and that they were informed of their appointment to other branches of the SS. Members so informed by Himmler's office were required to send in their SS identification cards for administrative handling.

Exhibit No. 2574 (Doc. No. NG-2657, Doc. Bk. 94, Engl. p. 165) indicates the manner in which the honorary members of the SS were informed of the fact that the title had been abolished by decree and transferred to other offices (such as to the staff of Himmler).

The exhibit is as follows:

"The Reichsfuehrer SS Berlin, 25 February 1936
Personnel Office (stamp:) 26 February 1936
Journal No. W./S.

To the
SS-Gruppenfuehrer Dr. Otto DIETRICH

Berlin W 8
Wilhelmstr. 8

In accordance with the decree concerning the reorganization of the Fuehrer corps of the Schutzstaffel of 23 January 1936, Journal No. 370/36, the title 'Ehrenfuehrer' is abolished. Effective 1 April 1936 you are appointed SS-Fuehrer in the Staff RFSS.

You are requested to send in the SS-identification for rewriting to the Personnel office of RFSS, Berlin SW 11, Prinz-Albrecht-Str. 9.

The Personnel referent with the
Reichsfuehrer SS
by order
(Initial)
SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer"