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CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Brigadier General Hayes A. Kroner
General Staff
Chief, Military Intelligence Service
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Kroner:

I thought you would be interested in receiving the attached information which was obtained through questioning of the German saboteurs who were recently convicted by the Military Commission.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

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anyone outside the Naval Service.
O. N. I.

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MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

There appears to be a difference of opinion between Government officials in Germany as to the possibility of the United Nations opening a second front. It is generally believed that an invasion of the European continent such as through France is not possible. There is a general feeling, however, that if a second front is opened Italy would be the place of invasion, as Italy is admittedly the weakest point in the German defense. It was stated that for this reason a large German army is maintained at the Brenner Pass to forestall any such invasion. Some officials in Germany are of the opinion that the second front would start in Egypt, from which point a combined force of American, British, and other Allied forces would fight their way through Turkey and up into Europe through Bulgaria, which has caused Hitler to maintain another large army in Bulgaria. It is generally believed that the longer Russia fights the greater is the possibility of a second front being opened.

One of the recently convicted German agents stated that he believed the army Hitler is maintaining in Bulgaria is scheduled to march into Turkey in September 1942 for the purpose of conquering Iraq, provided the army that is now invading Russia is unable to reach the Caucasus oil fields before winter.

It was stated that German officials regard the American army as its most dangerous enemy outside of the Russian army. The growing power of the air forces of the United States is greatly feared by the Germans.

It was stated that 90 per cent of the German people believe it would be better for Germany to lose the war because conditions could not be any worse than they now are under the rule of the Gestapo. The German people generally hope that some sort of a compromise peace may be made before the German army suffers a serious military defeat. It was stated that if the Germans are defeated in battle there is a great likelihood of serious internal strife throughout Germany regardless of the Gestapo. The release of the occupants of prison camps and concentration camps would cause serious conditions, and it is feared that a large number of the German population would be slaughtered. The German people realize that any compromise peace necessarily means that Hitler and his associates must be removed. However, the German people feel that the removal of Hitler is only possible with outside aid. The opinion was advanced that if Adolf Hitler was to die or be killed there would be an immediate outbreak of civil war among the various German leaders such

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as Goering, Himmler, Goebbels and Ley. This was declared to be inevitable due to the fact that none of these men trust each other and none of them would be willing to see the other become the leader of the German government.

In the event of a civil war in Germany it was expected that the army, no matter how victorious it might be, would make an attempt to obtain an immediate armistice so that it could join in the civil war principally for the purpose of cleaning out the Gestapo. The army is reported to be incensed over the manner in which the Gestapo has been treating the German people at home. There appears to be no doubt but that serious trouble will occur between the German army and the Gestapo upon the conclusion of hostilities.

An incident reflecting the ill feeling between the army and the Gestapo was described. It was stated that a flying officer at a night club in Berlin requested the orchestra to play a certain American dance tune. A Gestapo agent who was present instructed the leader of the orchestra to stop playing that song. Thereafter, the German officer and a fellow officer, both of whom were wearing military decorations, publicly announced to the patrons at the night club what had occurred. They then violently threw the Gestapo agent from the night club. It was stated that the patrons greatly applauded this action.

There are secret radio stations being operated in Germany, and it is believed that in most cases they belong to the army. These stations frequently broadcast to the German people, telling them of the treachery of the Nazi Party officials. At one time one of these stations called Goebbels a "schweinhund" and on another occasion Hitler was called a "bastard." It is believed in Germany that these stations are actually operated by the German army. It is also believed that some radio stations are operated by the British agents within Germany.

In connection with the reaction of the German public to British and American propaganda efforts, it was said that notwithstanding the risk of penitentiary sentences and even death sentences, the German public is regularly listening to American and English propaganda. It was indicated, however, that this propaganda would be more effective if it did not leave the impression in the minds of the German people that they themselves are guilty and responsible for the prevailing conditions in Germany instead of their leaders and that the propaganda would be much more effective if some hope could be given to the Germans for their deliverance from a depressing situation. The printed

propaganda which is being distributed in Germany by airplane is considered insufficient in quantity and also rather offensive to the German mentality. This material is usually threatening and vindictive and it is of no value to ridicule the leaders in Germany because the people know these men are corrupt and desire more concrete and convincing information than comic pictures of Goering, Goebbels, and others.

The declaration of war against the United States by Hitler greatly depressed the German people, who felt that the United States' entry into the war was a major defeat for Hitler diplomacy. The Germans feel that the submarine warfare against the United States, about which Hitler boasts, will not defeat the United States but only prolong the war which fact is greatly feared by the people. The majority of people in Germany are convinced, since the United States entered the war, that if the war is not over by the end of 1942 or by the spring of 1943, the war is definitely lost to Germany. It was stated that this opinion was held by German people in various phases of life.

There is a general fear throughout Germany that the war will be continued for a long time. People fear that if Germany is defeated it will suffer greatly from the revenge of the victorious enemy, particularly Russia. Some German people, however, believe that such a defeat would be preferable to a German victory, which would cause a continuation of terrorism by the Gestapo. Some Germans also believe that a German victory would mean long military service in foreign countries with the army and large numbers of civilians would be sent to foreign stations in the occupied countries, which would mean that families would be broken up for years. It was pointed out that since the beginning of the war many German mechanics have been obliged to go to occupied countries to work and as a result have been separated from their families at home. This has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction and hardship due to the fact that their pay is small and they are unable to send sufficient money home to support their families.

In connection with the shortage of raw material in Germany, it was stated that the most serious shortages at this time are of tungsten, copper, chromium, zinc, nickel, wool, cotton, silk, rubber, and oil, and that there is a most serious shortage of skilled and common labor. The more serious shortages of material were, to some extent, relieved by the seizure of reserve materials and supplies in the countries occupied by Germany. It is a well known fact in Germany that at the present time all of the reserve stock of materials mentioned above are practically exhausted. The Germans realize that oil is of paramount importance to them and for this reason they are willing to go to any length to achieve a definite and speedy victory over Russia.

It was pointed out that unless Hitler's armies are able to obtain the oil from the Russian fields in the Caucasus by the fall of this year it is not believed that there is any chance for Germany to win the war. The rationing of food in Germany is considered more severe now than it was in 1918 and the German people believe that a continuation of the war will mean even greater food restrictions.

There is a constant feeling by those occupying high official positions in Germany that if the Italian government could possibly do so they would try to obtain a separate peace. After the battle of Genoa when the British fleet severely battered that city, it was known in Germany that peace feelers were actually put out to the British. It was stated that the German army is very contemptuous of the Italians as soldiers and the German population as a whole heartily despises and is disgusted with the Italians at the present time and whenever the opportunity presents itself they do not hesitate to show it openly.

There was a general feeling of friendship between Germany and Italy before the war, based upon the German need for an open corridor from Germany to the Mediterranean Sea, the advantage of an ally on Germany's southern border, and the similarity between Nazism and Fascism, and the fact that they had the same objective -- expansion. This friendly feeling no longer exists. One of the principal reasons for this was the hesitating attitude of the Italian government in entering the war. This feeling is principally on the part of the German people who were not aware of the fact that Hitler had actually ordered Italy to remain out of the war. Hitler's reason for this action was that Italy was not prepared for war and he would have been obliged to send troops to Italy which he could not afford to do in 1939. Even today Germany has a large number of anti-aircraft units and aircraft stationed in Italy as a precaution against an attack on Germany by way of Italy, and these units are sorely missed on the other German battle fronts.

There are continuous reports going back to Germany regarding the strong opposition to the war by the Italian people due to the Italians' heavy losses. The church in Italy was also exercising a strong influence against Italy participating in the present conflict. The Germans continually hear of riots by the Italians in demonstrations against Germany and against the Italian participation in the war. German officials visiting Italy are well received by the government officials, but are rudely received by the Italian populace. On numerous occasions German officials riding in the streets of Italy are stoned by the populace. There are reported to be a large number of Gestapo agents in Italy whose sole duties are to maintain a close observation of Italian officials to prevent any possible traitorousness on their part.

High German officials do not express any dislike for Italy, but privately are assuming the attitude that Italy is now part of the German Reich.

There have been a considerable number of reports received in Germany relative to Italian cowardism in action. One story repeated in Germany indicated that the Italians in Libya reported three casualties and a loss of three thousand prisoners. The Italians are believed anxious to surrender whenever the opportunity presents itself. Another incident reported in Germany related to the action of a squadron of Italian fighter planes which had been assigned to convoy a number of German transports from Crete to Libya. The convoy was attacked by British planes and the Italian aircraft fled, resulting in a number of German transports being sunk before help from a German air base in Crete arrived. It was stated that after the German squadron engaged the British planes they returned to the Italian air base in Crete where a fight broke out between the German and Italian aviators resulting in the death of about 25 Italians. It was pointed out that it is common knowledge that in Greece the German armies have encouraged the Greeks to insult the Italian soldiers. When the Italian soldiers attempt to retaliate, the Germans interfere and protect the Greeks. It was also pointed out that the Italian army expected to participate in a victory march into Athens after the German army was victorious in Greece. The German High Command refused to allow the Italians to participate.

Another source of friction in Germany is the huge Italian labor camps which have been established in the former country. The food rationing for the Italians in this camp is much larger than that given to the German workers. This has created a strong feeling of resentment against these Italians. Another cause for the resentment is the attitude of the Italian men toward German women which has caused many fights and considerable hard feelings.

U.S. Army and Naval Service.

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