

1948/56

25-1066-1  
14 July 1945.

Before the Anschluss who owned the Österreichische Magnesit Co?

I have no idea of the ownership.

Do you know nothing of the Österreichische American Magnesit Co. after the Anschluss?

No, I do not know details. I have only heard from discussions. The reason was that we wanted to erect a magnesium plant. -

Do you know that a new company was formed?

Mr. Mayer-Wegelin just told me that there had been some change. But I don't know details. I remember that there can have been a change. ~~For what the change was~~

WHAT WAS THE CHANGE? I DON'T KNOW.  
~~For what the change was you don't know? No.~~

What was your position in the Company?

I am in the management of the Verkaufsgemeinschaft Chemikalien together with Dr. von Schnitzer and Haefliger. <sup>BOOKWALKER</sup> I am specialist in inorganic chemicals.

You know nothing about the Magnesit Co.?

The Magnesit Co. was always regarded as Mr. Haefliger's domain. He was responsible for all what has to be done in this domain, because it was raw material for magnesium metal and Mr. Haefliger was in charge of the metal.

Did you read this exposé? Yes.

Did you understand it? Yes.

Does it say that there has been a change in the Magnesit Co.?  
From that I remember that it might have been.

Which part of the exposé are you responsible for?

~~All of that~~ I am not responsible for what has been written. I have only helped. I know most about the ~~ESTIMATE~~ <sup>FOUR</sup> ~~REPORT~~. REVAL

Did you write any part?

I have not written any part. I had written before, but it was between Kugler and myself a difference in understanding. I began to write about Finish Chemicals and Mayer-Wegelin had written down about Petsamo and afterwards Kugler came and told not to write about Finland.

Where is the exposé about Finland? In the other room.

What part of the second exposé you are writing?

Finish chemicals. Then I had to help perhaps for Pressburg. I will frankly say that the activities in the South-eastern countries were not made by I.G. but by Dynamit Nobel, Pressburg. We were practically excluded from that. Mr. Ilgner knows more, he was in the board. Who knows most of all is Mr. Gattineau, now in Achau (?) in Bavaria. He was commercial man in the board of Pressburg. He is responsible for the activities of Pressburg.

cont'd.

I want you to write yourselves all ~~most~~ the sections of the report ~~as~~ which you are familiar, I want the full details.

<sup>WITH</sup>  
I understand. I need the cooperation of the people who have the documents.

You get the cooperation.

I understand you have nothing to do with the Deutsche Magnesit?

No.

Were you in Austria?

Yes, I have been there. I have <sup>LISTED</sup> a report of all my journeys. In 1943.

Did you visit the Magnesit plants? No.

Did you speak to anybody about the Magnesit plants? No.

Did you know that it was an American Company?

Generally I knew that the Österreichische Magnesit Co. was owned by American, but I did not know that it was owned by Austrian ...? Management was taken ~~out~~ <sup>by</sup> from the Deutsche Magnesit Co. Mr. Haefliger was very anxious that I did not interfere in his field. Formerly I worked under Haefliger, now <sup>COORDINATED</sup> coordinated. I am the business man and Mr. Haefliger is a man a little bit phantastic. He had the feeling that I had been doing in order to bring him out, so there was a little - friendly - competition. He had the feeling, v. Heider is the man who cooperates very much with Mr. Weber-Andrae (Weber-Andrae was a manager of the Verkaufsgemeinschaft Chemikalien - now dead).

75-1066-2

zu Lang v. 17. 7. 95

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

Interrogation  
of  
von Heider.

Institut f. Zeitgeschichte  
München  
ARCHIV

25-1066-4

1948/56

17 July 1945

Time: 2,10 - 2,50 p.m.

OLD

- Q. What was the proposal of I.G. in August 1940 in regard to the formation of a huge <sup>domestic</sup> French chemical cartel?
- A. A cartel for the whole chemical industry was, to the best of my knowledge, never planned. I remember that we planned different cartels for different products but at ~~that~~ the moment I don't remember about an entire cartel except the plant of the Francolor.
- Q. Chemicals, I mean!
- A. I can't remember. Not probably because the field of every French firm was differing. We were accustomed to have single cartels for say, carbone, bisulphite, sodium sulphite, etc. but not a combined cartel including all products.
- Q. Did you propose to use the cartel to control the French chemical industry?
- A. Yes, we intended to make cartels with the French producers.
- Q. And you intended to join the French cartels to the German?
- XXX  
A. Yes.
- Q. Was the head of these cartels in Germany?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Under German leadership?
- A. Yes.
- Q. All exports in regard to French industry would go through this cartel?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Germany would have a complete control over the French Chemical industry?
- A. Yes. I.G. and the German chemical industry.
- Q. In regard to the construction of new plants and the enlargement of existing plants in the military war sector of chemicals in the dominated countries did I.G. propose that the consent of the Nazi government was necessary?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you intend in respect to the relations between Germany and the other countries in Europe to always control their production of military chemicals so that the Wehrmacht was always supreme? Is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In regard to the relations between Germany and conquered Europe and the rest of the world including USA you proposed to control trade and to use your own economic warfare measures to undermine, to weaken the military potential in chemicals of the USA and the other free countries of the world?
- A. No. In this sense no.
- In 1940 we were asked by Dr. Ungewitter, in charge of the Reichsstelle Chemie, to make a report on a base given to us

that the government intended to form an economic unit of occupied Europe.

- Q. And you were then asked<sup>what</sup> about your field of chemistry, about imports and exports and organization of new plants, etc.?
- A. Yes. We have given them answers to these questions based already on a program.
- Q. Were it written instructions?
- A. I think there must exist these instruction. I can't remember whether they were written or whether our Berlin gentlemen brought these orders to us, and so we were asked to answer on a given basis.
- Q. Who is Mr. Ungewitter?
- A. He was formerly the manager of the Verein zur Wahrung der Interessen der chem. Industrie, then he was in charge 1.) of the Reichsstelle Chemie, 2.) Wirtschaftsgruppe Chemische Industrie. He was practically the head for the chemicals in the ministry of economic.
- Q. In regard to the conquered countries in Europe the base laid down by the Nazi government to you, was that the German Wehrmacht must always be supreme in weapon? And the other production of warfare weapons must be controlled by the Wehrmacht or the government?
- A. I think that's right.
- Q. On that basis I.G. prepared its plans saying that the erection organization of new plants, the enlargement of existing plants, etc. in the dominated countries must be under the Nazi government?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In regard to the relations between dominated Europe and the free countries what was the basis laid down by the Nazi government?
- A. The Nazi government intended to have Germany interrelation as strong as it could.
- Q. Was it intended to control the trade relations between Germany and the conquered Europe that the Wehrmacht would be supreme in weapon?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I.G. on the basis of that submitted its proposals for keeping Germany supreme in warfare weapons in regard to the USA and the other free countries of the world?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did I.G. propose to use its cartel, its participations and its exchange of experiences with the USA and the other free countries of the world to keep the Wehrmacht supreme on chemical warfare weapons. Is that correct?
- A. The real meaning of I.G. and meaning of the government was differing greatly.
- Q. Was I.G. the instrument for keeping the Wehrmacht supreme

in chemical warfare weapons.

A. I.G. was in effect the instrument. We were pressed to do so.

Q. I.G. became the instrument under pressure of the Nazi government?

A. Yes.

Q. How did I.G. propose to keep the Wehrmacht supreme in chemical warfare weapons?

A. vis à vis the USA? - I don't think that I.G. has made proposals to that. I don't remember at the moment.

We had proposed to give Sweden a licence on our buna and to erect a plant for buna in Sweden. But the German government interfered and did not allow us to do that. And so in effect we were the instrument that Sweden did not get the buna plant because we were not allowed. But our proposal had been, give them the plant. Our proposals made tried to be economically sound and not to be based on Wehrmacht purposes.

Q. Regarding the USA?

A. I don't remember. We had at that time no relations to the USA,

Q. How did not propose to use your cartel for example in order to keep the Wehrmacht supreme in chemical warfare weapons - against USA?

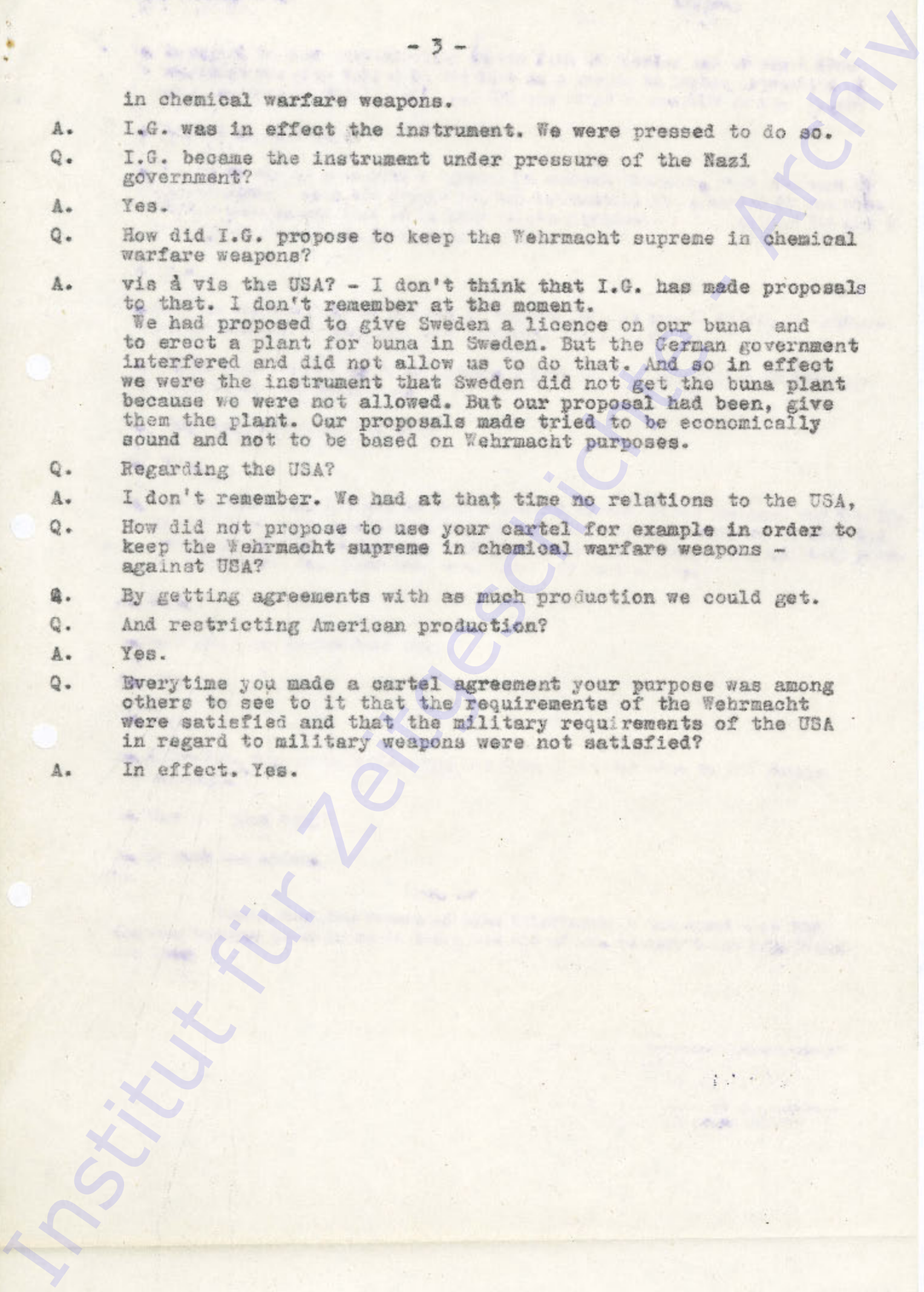
A. By getting agreements with as much production we could get.

Q. And restricting American production?

A. Yes.

Q. Everytime you made a cartel agreement your purpose was among others to see to it that the requirements of the Wehrmacht were satisfied and that the military requirements of the USA in regard to military weapons were not satisfied?

A. In effect. Yes.



(von Heider Con.)

17/7/45

Q. In regard to your participation in the firms of America and of other free countries you also intend to use that as a weapon to weaken production of military warfare chemicals in the USA and other countries? Is that right?

A. In fact it is right.

Q. And in regard to your patent agreements and your licences, your exchange of experiences, I mean the people you had in America, you intended to use them in the same manner that is to keep military production down in the USA and to strengthen production in Germany?

A. Yes.

Q. And the representatives you had in America were to report to you on American production and to keep you well informed? Is that right?

A. It is right except as to my sector. I have told everyone that we have nothing to do with espionage.

Q. They were your eyes and ears?

A. Yes.

Q. In the relations between Germany-conquered Europe on the one hand and the USA on the other hand I.G. always bore in mind that it was necessary to keep the Wehrmacht supreme in chemical warfare weapons and to weaken the military power of America and the other free countries? Is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you ever in the Nazi Army?

A. Yes.

Q. When?

A. 1907--1920 then from 1936--1939; and then I participated in the Polish Campaign.

Q. What was your rank?

A. My rank was Major.

I have read the record of this interrogation and swear that the answers therein given by me to the questions of Mr. Weisbrodt and Mr. Devins are true

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Position in I.G. Farben)