

Note on an Interview with Herr Helmut Laux at his home,
Königsstein / Taunus, Altkönigsstrasse 15, 12⁴⁰ - 11⁵ pm, 28.3.1971

1. Herr Laux was distant and only moderately forthcoming throughout the interview, whose purpose was to ascertain what papers or photographs he still has. He explained he was "Berliner Illustrierte" photographer, taking official photos of diplomatic receptions etc. in Berlin (and once, 1939, at Berghof) from April 1939 to Frühjahr 1944 when he was called up. He also photographed the Ribbentrop - Stalin pact in Moscow, August 1939 - a high-point of his career.
2. However, his photographs and negatives are all "ausgelagert", and in poor condition. His wife interjected that the photo negatives are chemically deteriorating, underexposed, over developed, etc. Herr L suggested I should refer to, and copy, the photos in the files of the "Berliner Illustrierte" itself. His wife has persuaded him to cut himself adrift from the past - he was humorous but hostile throughout the interview. My suggestion that by far the most satisfactory solution would be for L to donate his collection to the Bundesarchiv met with only lukewarm interest.
3. Herr Laux evidently knows of no personal anecdotes on Hitler, etc. He had no personal contact with him, unlike Krenz.

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