

Note re an interview with Pt. Christa Schroeder at her
home, 8 Munich 2, Enbacherstr. 6, from 9-10³⁰ pm, 30 Nov 1970.

Institut für Zeitgeschichte
C-IV

Altz. 4270/72

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Rep.

Kat.

1. At first Pt. Schroeder was disconcertingly cold, but as I conversed with her and made no attempt to "pump" her, she became increasingly friendly and warm - just before I left - she showed me her treasures: four pens and ink slabs by Stille (table, bridge, ball etc) and a pencil stub of a vagabond, perhaps of Stille as he saw himself. I invited her to dinner on Wednesday at 8 pm.; she is amused by the idea, and I am to telephone her at 7³⁰ pm. (she may still change her mind.)
2. background: an honest, upright woman, with memory of detail provided not harassed; positive towards Stille, but not unconditionally. She stressed that towards individuals she was warm and human, but towards anonymous masses (i.e., the German public, etc.) she could be very cold. Aged about 70 (she says she worked 45 years, is now a pensioner.) She is very embittered about publication of memoirs. The *Erinnerungen* she wrote in captivity were pirated and published, heavily bowdlerized and with critical comment interspersed ("Stille privat") by the French office who obtained them. She fought a lawsuit against him, but now just wants peace. She is bitter that the rubbish put into her mouth by the Frenchmen has caused an estrangement between herself and people like Otto Günsche.

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3. She had a fierce row with Hitler when she dined with him (she showed his clock) and one other female secretary at Berlin after the return from Bad Nauheim (1945.) Hitler had arrived late for lunch, in a black mood after a row at the Tagessprechung. He had begun talking about the lack of a Nachfolger, now that Hess had flown and Göring had lost possibility. Col. Schroeder mentioned Schöner, and Hitler dismissed the suggestion - "das ist vollkommen unmusikalisch!" "Das spielt kaum eine Rolle bei der heutigen Lage!" retorted Col. Schroeder, and Hitler believed at first, "Was bilden Sie sich ein, das Sie mich unterlegen!" then he apologized, and agreed that they talk politics no further.

4. She does not know anything has recently been seen of Frau Mangiarly.

Note on the Second Interview of Frl Christa Schroeder at her home in Munich from 9 p.m. to 12.10 a.m. 2 December 1970.

1.) Frl Schroeder recalled one occasion in the summer of 1938 as public unrest about a possible war was growing. She, Hitler and Martin Bormann were sitting in the garden enclosure of the "Osteria", at lunch; she was emboldened by the spirits she had drunk to relate to Hitler a story popular among the local population. "Es wird gesagt, mein Führer, dass bei der heutigen Lage es zwei Alternativen gibt: entweder gibt es Krieg, oder es gibt nicht. Gibt es kein Krieg - das ist gut. Gibt es Krieg, dann gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du kommst an die Front, oder du kommst in die Etappe. Kommst du in die Etappe, das ist gut. Kommst du in die Front, dann gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du wirst erschossen oder du wirst nicht erschossen; wirst du nicht erschossen, das ist gut. Wirst du erschossen, gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du wirst verwundet oder du wirst getötet. Wirst du nur verwundet, das ist gut; wirst du getötet, gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du kommst in einen Massengrab oder du kommst in einen Einzelgrab. Kommst du in einen Einzelgrab, das ist gut, kommst du ...". By this time Hitler was roaring helplessly with laughter, shaking with laughter, slapping his thigh, and the story was halted. Bormann said to Frl Schroeder, "Wenn Sie nur zweimal im Jahr den Führer in eine solche Stimmung bringen können, dann haben Sie ihr Geld verdient!"

2.) Frl Schroeder recalled the occasion on which (late 1941?) the Teegesellschaften abends were temporarily halted. Hitler had launched forth on one occasion on the topic of the evils of smoking and drinking, und dabei hatte er Jodl (?) gefragt, ob auch die Soldaten die Nichtraucher und Nichttrinker waren, Zigarette erhielten an der Front. Die Frage wurde bejaht, and he expressed his dissatisfaction with this. Thereupon sagte Frl Schroeder, etwa, "Mein Führer, die armen Schweine haben wirklich nichts, man sollte ihnen wenigstens diese Kleinigkeiten zulassen." Hitler replied that smoking and drinking was most unhealthy, whereupon Frl Schroeder tactlessly referred to the example of Heinrich Hoffmann, der ja mehr als jeder andere Mensch im Führerhauptquartier

trank und rauchte, aber "der agilste Mensch im Führerhauptquartier" sei. She said this more out of irritation than anything. For a moment there was eisiges Schweigen, then Hitler abruptly rose and took his leave of them. Next day Albert Bormann (?) announced that the evening Teegesellschaften would not take place any more. FrI. Wolf, and then FrI. Schroeder tried to vermitteln, without success. Hitler would not accept Schroeder's apology. He did not speak to her at all for one year. Once (?) he asked for her to sit at his side, when Fr. Exner arrived at the FHQu about a year later, but throughout the meal he spoke only to Exner and not to her at all, which was more hurtful to FrI. Schroeder than if he had not invited her. Then early in the spring of 1943 he undertook a ^{journey} ~~flight~~ to the front line (FrI. Schroeder mentioned the name: not Saporosche or Sevastopol, something --- orod ?) and it was in the train, on this occasion, or at the headquarters, that Hitler suddenly asked her if she was satisfied with her accommodation there. Thus the ice was broken again.

3.) In the spring of 1944 she was seriously ill, in hospital at Bad Gastein. On her birthday* in March (she was 34 in 1943 when FrI. Humpf came) in March 1944, Hitler sent Fr. Christian with some bottles of Sekt from Eva Braun, and with a birthday card in his own handwriting. She was so moved that she wrote an emotional letter to him, and even undertook to give up smoking - a minor victory which moved Hitler to read out the letter several times to the fireside acquaintances at the Berghof.

4.) FrI. Schroeder was also witness of the occasion when Frau v. Schirach protested to Hitler about the deportation of Dutch Jews she had witnessed. The protest was made during the evening Teegesellschaft, am Kamin im grossen Saal des Berghofs. On the next day Fr v. Schirach was obliged by Hitler to leave the Berghof, and she never returned. [See page 217 above]

5.) By chance she and Fr Christian were present at the first few Lagebesprechungen in Rastenburg as the first great victories were reported. She well remembers Hitler pointing to Moscow on the map (as early as then), and saying, "In vier Wochen werden wir in Moskau sein, und dann werde ich Moskau dem Erdboden gleichmachen." Then their presence was noticed and they were asked to leave. The Lage was in the Kasino at Rastenburg at that time.

[* FrI. Schröder geb. 19.3.1906]

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3.12.1970

6.) Fr1. Schroeder showed a number of photographs of that time, about 30 all told, including her, v. Below, Fr Christian, Hewel, Richard Schulze, und Werner Koeppen. The latter, it turns out, is her best friend, lives now in Munich as director der Allianz, with address

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ZS 2240-6

Note on an Interview of Hänel, Christa Schroeder, at
her flat, Munich, Entenbachstr. 6, from 8¹⁰ to 11³⁰ pm,
19 June 1971.

1. Most interesting was the discovery that Fr. Schroeder had written prececeded memoirs (Aufzeichnungen) over the last years; then, in several tiny orders, she keeps in a box under her bed. From her discussion of the Scheut, etc. papers, I formed the impression (only) that she is interested in a financial arrangement, but I did not make any attempt to see the papers, ~~and~~ ^{and} I stressed I had never (except for two exceptions [Capt Morris and Janus Coeraelus]) paid for information.
2. The Krach with Hilke about Hoffmann and Jan Rauten started (see Interview #1) she thinks, during the first Russian crisis (winter 1941) and ended December 1942(?) or years later, when Hilke flew with his staff to Dnepropetrovsk; he had to take Fr. Sch, because Fr. Wolf was too old for such rigorous conditions. During the flight he dictated an Hilf an die Soldaten der Ostfront. - Fr. Schroeder considers it unfair that the remaining staff cold-shouldered her as soon as they detected she was in Ungnade.
3. She saw the letters of Geli Rauten (d.h. of various Verhältnisse to G.L.) being burnt in the courtyard of Berghof in April 1945; she guesses they had been transferred there (to the tunnels) after the suicide. Frau Rauten was Haus-
hälterin auf dem Berghof. Von ihr wurde mir gesprochen.
4. The complaint by Frau Schrach about treatment of the Jews was after their return from a visit to (?) Amsterdam, where they had seen forced deportation and rounding up

of the Jews. At this time Baldur was still Reichstatthalter in Wien. Hitler disliked Wien; when Schirach died talking of Wien he replied [on this occasion?], "Über Wien wollen wir garnicht reden." The complaint about Jews took place at the Berghof. Hitler refused to discuss politics and the Schirach, who had intended staying several days, left prematurely the morning after they arrived. Hl. Sch. cannot confirm Frau v. P.'s statement quoting Hitler on "Gleichgewicht" des Deutschen.

5. She confirmed the story of Dampes and the Fliege, except that Dampes apparently stood watching Hitler's efforts & dis-
gust of the flea with some cynical amusement; Hitler observed the expression on his face and burst out also, "Wenn ein Soldat absteht in der Lage ist, ein Schlachtschiff zu erbeutigen, erwarte ich dass ein Oberstfeld. 98 eine Fliege erbeutigen kann!" (She herself was not present.) She attributes Dampes' downfall also to Fegeleni.
6. Eva Braun rejoiced to her after Fegeleni's wedding to Goeth, that ^{as} Fegeleni's "sister in law" she was at last "somewhere", with a right to be at the Berghof.
7. In the train on the eve of Frankreichfeldzug: morning
servantesses were told to prepare to depart that evening.
At least for how long, Schaub mysteriously replied, ^{(also} "Es könnte
sein ein Tag, hundert, oder ein Wochen, oder ein Monaten."
That evening Hitler told them they were bound for
Norway (!) But on the way the train was reversed and
headed west.
8. Bonmann's secretary is now wife of Professor James, Cambridge.

Notes on an Interview of Krl. Augusta Poltrovede over
lunch, Regina Palace Hotel, 1-2³⁰ pm 10. Sept 1971.

1. ^(typewritten) She showed transcripts from her post-war Aufzeichnungen.
One was following story. She and Hitler were walking in
darkness at Fulsehauptquartier "Wolfsschanze", late in
1944. She stumbled slightly in the darkness, recalled
she had left her Taschenlampe on the desk in Hitler's
office. Hitler sent a Diener back to collect it. Diener
returned empty-handed - it was not there. Hitler
jokingly said he had not taken it: "Ich bin zwar ein
Häufeleich aber kein Häufeleichstehler. Die Kleinen
werden [aufgehängt], die grossen lässt man laufen."
In Schwäbischen Dialekt - die Schwaben being of mercenary repute.
2. Hitler's Einstellung gegen Pfarrer und Kirche als
Schuldkind. Erzählte von seinem Religionsprofessor
der einen schmutzigen Taschentuch bei sich hatte.
The handkerchief was so old that the teacher literally
had to pull it apart every time he wanted to use it.
3. She enlarged on her acquaintance with Martin Bormann
which reached back to the early 1930's and beyond, when
she had been ^(a Party) his secretary when he had merely ^{aufgehört und} verwaltet
die Sicherungs ^{masse} parti der SA und Partei [paying money
to those injured in street fighting.] He had then married
the daughter of Walter Borch, and through this marriage -
eine reine Zweckhe - he had shot to prominence in
the party; she was elegant, flat-chested and devoted

to Martin, who treated her in an unbecoming manner, even in front of important guests - "you can go back to bed now dear", he would say when she came to greet his guests. She bore him ten children. Hanni Mann told Schroder for many years. Mann always treated her very humanely - not even when Ross.

4. She was also secretary to Otto Wagener, writing his correspondence, much of it to Germany's major industrialists of the era, establishing contacts on behalf of the Party. Wagener was [a friend of] Magda Goebbels, and was present during Hitler's early meetings with her. Hitler was captivated by her beauty, urged her to marry [someone] and brought her together with Goebbels so that she would be near him more frequently. Seeing Magda Goebbels, he had commented to Wagener that she stirred in him feelings he had thought had died with Geli Raubach.

5. Fr. Schroder had spoken as recently as 8.9.71 [at Pictet's Hamburg party, attended by v. Helldorf, Kueppers, Frau Ohlson, Engel etc.] to Emil Maurice, and Maurice on this occasion related to him everything he knew about Hitler and Geli Raubach. Maurice had been her secret Verlobte, and was dismissed by Hitler without pay when the fact came to his attention - for which Maurice successfully vordacht Hitler before 1933 before the

meinein Arbeitsgericht; by 1933 he had fortunately engaged with Hitler. Otherwise would Maunier have put an end to him. Geli told Maunier of the terrible position she was in, virtually in a cage in Hitler's dwelling, forbidden to have any boyfriends and asked to cast an instant eye Mark Heloff that she claimed. Heloff had gone down on bended knees in front of her. Hel. Schroeder gained the impression that the relationship was purely platonic still at the time of the suicide.

6. From Winkler had related to her how Eva Braun had come into contact with Hitler, slipping billets dore into his pockets - one of which, said From Winkler [might have] caused the Geli suicide when it was found by her. Eva said Hel. Schroeder was rather charming and tried very hard to win Heloff. In April 1945 when she came to Berlin to finish her days with Hitler she explained to Hel. Schroeder:

7. "Ich wollte ihm alles Schöne in diesem Leben und das einzige was ich für ihn tun kann ist das ich ihm das gebe."

7. Maunier also told her of the trips he made with Hitler by car to Berlin 1920 to 1938 etc.; Hitler brought Maunier, "Mädchen zu organisieren". Es wurde dann der ganze Abend genossen - sie waren nicht etwa Strassenmädchen aber auch nicht ganz ausständige Typen. Am Schluss des Abends fragte Hitler, "Hast du was ich was gegeben?" Maunier: selbstverständlich nicht.

10.9.1971

Hille: "Ich habe meine 20 RM gegeben."

8. 1942? Hille to Martin Bormann: "Halten Sie mir nur die Gantenke vom HeiB"; hat Fr. Schröder selbst anwesend gehabt. Bormann istal, lebenslang.
9. Hille's school years. Teacher kept a report book in which the severe misdemeanours of pupils were recorded. One the teacher unconsciously rhymed his report, etwa: "Hille ist ein Bösewicht, er spiegelt mit dem Sonnenlicht."
The children all choked this at the teacher when he entered the class room next day.
10. A further Aufzeichnung by Fr. Schröder describes the train journey, 9.5.1940. The train left the FHQs, destination unknown, into the dusk, heading generally north-west; the adjutants knew where they were heading but Schumann only hinted to the servants etc that they were going to Norway, etwa: "Haben Sie alle sick-sick mitgebracht (ein anti-Peeksauchheitsmittel)" oder "Sie werden ein schönes --- feld genießen können." After some hours the train stopped in the darkness at a station from which the Bahnhofsschilder had been removed. The train changed direction. Along the new stretch, all the station names had been removed and replaced by gelbe militärischen Schildern. In the early hours, they transferred to a column of cars, driving through beautiful ^{dawn} scenery until they reached a former Regimentalgefechtssternel - in Münsterhof,

although they did not know it. In the ~~the~~ it was a real
"Jagelparade" [presumably they arrived as the dawn chorus
was just beginning.] The success of the birds was joined
by less natural sounds, the rumble of heavy gunfire
all at once. Hilke announced, "Menei Stemen, ^{Wiese} ~~Wiese~~ ^{grasse}
sind an der Westfront. Die Westoffensive hat ~~soeben~~
begonnen."

11. She had also written emi Anfänger about the "Hrad-
schin" - presumably Hilke on 15-16.3.1939; but she did
not get round to letting me read it. The Anfänger
are stored in her Kommode at home; I urged her to con-
sider their publication.
12. Fr. Schwäbe repeated her earliest interview description of
the story she told Hilke in summer 1938 - "es gibt
zwei Möglichkeiten."
13. Fr. Schwäbe regretted that she is too "feige" to stand
up for the Speer-Erinnerungen, as she finds them
magnificent, and cannot believe any but Speer was in-
volved in writing them. -