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EVIDENCE DIVISION
INTERROGATION BRANCH

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INTERROGATION SUMMARY NO. 3407

Interrogation of : Wilhelm MELCHERS, Vertragender Legationsrat
Interrogated by : Dr. Kempner, 11 August 1947, Nuremberg
Division & Att'y : Ministries Division - Dr. Kempner
Controlled by : D. Purcell

PERSONS MENTIONED:

Grand Mufti - (p.2)
THAMM - Foreign Office (p.3)
WAGNER - " " (p.3)

SUMMARY

Subject was head of the Political Division of the Foreign Office from December 1939 until the end of the war. He cannot definitely say when he first heard of the deportation of Jews to the East, having seen various reports on the subject, but feels that by 1943 one understood that Jewish deportations signified a death march of some sort. Subject heard accounts of deportations from von BEZDORF in the Hotel Bristol in Berlin in 1943.

Subject states that when a plan was set on foot to rescue the Jews by shipping them to Palestine, the Grand Mufti made strong protest against such a program in the name of all the Arab interests and, while the objections of the Mufti were not actually decisive, it did provide a satisfactory reason for not approving the move. Subject states that possibly he himself, or THAMM or WAGNER may have advised the Mufti that such a move was under way. It is also possible that he was advised by the SS, from whom he received substantial supplies of gasoline, vehicles, etc. The Mufti proved to be of great service to the SS, traveling as he did in the Balkans and recruiting Mohammedans for the Waffen-SS. On one occasion the Mufti expressed to subject the opinion that

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the Jews could "go to hell" if they wanted to. Important to him was that they get out of Palestine. Still subject does not believe that the Mufti fully approved of the solution of the Jewish question selected by HITLER. He wished to make propaganda out of alleged outrages committed by the British against the Arabs, but this was mainly a product of his imagination and could not be supported by facts. He had dirty drawings prepared, which the Foreign Office endeavored to suppress.

Subject states that the Foreign Office prepared Certificates of Urgency in collaboration with various Jewish agencies in connection with the Havarah transfers. Subject wrote to Dr. LEVY requesting a note of apology.

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