

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES
APO 696-A U.S. ARMY

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

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Date: 24 April 1947

Doc. No.: NO 3271

Title and/or general nature:

- 1) Memorandum by SS Uschrf. Haemmerlein concerning Germanization
- 2) Notes to the above document
- 3) Covering letter to the document 1) by the local officer in charge of Race and Settlement in the district North East.

Date:

- 1) 19 May 1944
- 2) 18 May 1944
- 3) date illegible

Source (Location of original etc.): 7771 Document Center Berlin RFSS Files. Folder C 112 SS – 3119

PERSONS, FIRMS OR ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED:

Reichscommissioner for Strengthening of Germanization (RKFDV) SS Main Race and Settlement Office (RuSHA)

Local officer in charge of Race and Settlement problems in district (Oberabschnitt) North East

Main Reich Security Office (RSHA)

Reich Ministry of the Interior

Reich Ministry of Labor

SS Uscharf. Haemmerlein

TO BE FILED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS:

Atrocities against Civilians (forcible Germanization) – as above

SUMMARY (Indicate page nos. of original or translation):

This is a 24-page memorandum of SS Uscharf. Haemmerlein entitled: “A Summary of the principles, directives and orders concerning the procedure of re-germanization (Wiedereindeutschung).

(Analyst’s note: This is the most detailed description of re-germanization procedure found and is also of a later date than others already forwarded. As this lengthy document contains many facts already known, only the most important points have been summarized.)

The memorandum states that even persons of German blood who speak Polish and feel themselves to be Poles (Page 1) are also to be “germanized”. The purpose of this re-germanization is stated to be [The rest of this paragraph is unreadable].

- (Page 2) a) to prevent further increase of the Polish intellectual class by families of German origin who have become Polish
- b) to provide the desired increase in population of “racially desirable” persons and the provision of racially suitable labor for German agriculture and industry.

It will happen, it is stated, that some “renegades” will be germanized. What happens to them personally is of little importance, it is only important that their children should grow up in a German environment.

In describing the procedure for re-germanization, reference is made to decrees and regulations issued by RKFDV, Reich Ministries of the Interior, Food and Agriculture and Labor, the RuSHA and the RSHA. As 38 of the 52 references appearing as footnotes to this memorandum refer to decrees issued by the RKFDV, it is evident, that this organization played a large part in the re-germanization program.

It is reported that applications for re-germanization must be submitted to the HSSPF of the district in which the applicant lives as long as this is within Germany proper (Altreich) and these applications will be forwarded in due course to the branch (Aussenstelle) of the RuSHA at LITZMANNSTADT. Applications from persons living in the annexed Eastern territories are to be sent direct to Litzmannstadt. A “radical examination” of all relatives of the applicant is to be carried out under the guise of a medical examination. Persons and families judged eligible for “re-germanization” are to be sent to the “Old Reich” to work. They are however not to be sent through the normal channels via the labor offices but are to be assigned by the appropriate HSSPF to special farms or factories whose supervisors are politically suitable to undertake the education of these people so that they would be germanized as quickly as possible.

The RKFDV was charged with the registration of persons eligible for re-germanization (Page 10 and 11). The Stabshauptamt of the RKFDV is also mentioned as participating in the process of re-germanization and supervision of these persons (Pages 4, 11, 12 and 22).

Local Gestapo offices were to take necessary police measures against families showing “insubordination or a politically rebellious attitude”. (Page 10)

Persons eligible for re-germanization would not be drafted into the army but could enlist voluntarily in the Wehrmacht or the Waffen SS (Page 16). Regulations regarding foreigners in the Reich were not applicable to persons eligible to re-germanization (Page 16). Such persons were to be treated as Germans as far as the punishment of criminal and political offences was concerned, and laws regarding the punishment of Poles in the Reich would not apply to them. It could not however,

be expected, the memorandum states, that these people, who had had to leave their native land and property so recently, should show a completely cooperative attitude towards Germanism. It would be considered enough if they adapted themselves to existing conditions and committed no offences (Page 21).

The usual death penalty for Polish workers guilty of having sexual intercourse with German women did not apply to these people either. They were to be sent for six months to a special camp "Hinzert" where there was a special department for persons eligible for re-germanization (Page 22).

If during the period of internment, an internee was judged to be unsuitable for re-germanization, he was handed over for "special treatment".
(Analyst's note: the first and second parts of this memorandum entitled "The legal aspects of National Community (Volksgemeinschaft) and Citizenship law (Staatsangehoerigkeit) have not been photostated or analysed.

2. Seven pages of note to the above memorandum.

3. Covering letter to the about memorandum to the Chief of RuSHA from the local office in charge of Race and Settlement in the district (Oberabschnitt) North East.