

COPY

Nuernberg, Germany, 5 Aug 1948
Justizpalast 1SD
(US Zone)

TO:

Colonel Delmar T. Spivey
Chief of Academic Staff of
The Air University
Maxwell AF Base

MONTGOMERY
Alabama USA

Dear Sir,

Your sworn statement arrived just in time and I thank you very much for it. It was urgently needed insofar as the prosecution in Neurnberg is working with means with which Europeans are not acquainted--except possibly the Russians--and one has to count with the possibility of being indicted even for a good deed. It will be only in the future that one can see the damage that is being done to America here in Neurnberg. Just because I am (was) a General of the "Waffen SS" I have to be indicted and convicted--and that will be even easier since there is not a single soldier among the judges--and nobody there has faintest idea of military tactics. Of course you can't expect that of a civilian. That is how the gratitude of the victorious nation of America will result in years of imprisonment for me, and in the destruction of my family.

Gratitude, not because of yours or General Vanaman's influence--but because of my influence used in behalf of the POWs under great risk for my own personal safety--ten thousands of these POWs who owe to me their health if not their lives.

But there is nothing to be done now and I don't want to talk about it even though it would probably be necessary on account of the many thousands who will make their decision--whether East or West--dependent on my conviction. When in 1945 I talked to you about Russia and its true and real character--about Stalinism--I knew that you did not accept my statements but that you took it as part of our German propaganda. I don't mind that, because I knew that some day you would be convinced by circumstances as to the correctness of my opinion. I believe that now the time has come to show these Americans what can develop. The governing authorities of the Western powers in Germany are of the opinion that Russia has no idea of aggression; that she is only threatening; that if she would wage aggressive war America, France and the Benelux countries would be very well in a position to put an end to it since there are supposedly such strong anti-bolshevistic forces in Russia. Based on this is the treatment that the German people receive--especially that part of the population that would probably be needed in case of war with Russia. This is not advisable.

All changes in the last few years, especially since 1945, are being disregarded and imaginary powers are taken into consideration. Just to mention one: France. One considers the French Army to be strong and powerful. Regardless

of the facts that the French Army is still using methods dating back to 1936, that they know little about tank warfare or cooperation of different weapons, they will never be able to withstand, since their reserve officer corps is mostly communistic. They will be overrun just like they were overrun by the Germans in 1940, not to even mention Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg. Don't say: "the Pyrenees will stop the Russians" or "we will make a second invasion". There are things that succeed only once, even if one has the atomic bomb. Russia will use its time very well and she will establish a power position in every country she occupies.

Now if the opinion of the Americans in Germany is correct (but I better say the men in American uniforms because in most cases they aren't real Americans) that the Russians want peace; that they won't go further than the Elbe; that they don't want parts of Western Europe, then your form of government is right. But should this opinion be incorrect then there will be a bad awakening for America

If it is possible that fire and water can exist side by side--state capitalism and private capitalism--then one can go ahead in the old path. Should this not be the case, then a quick change is urgently needed, a turn of 90° if not 180°.

Dear Colonel, under no circumstances should in in America take advice from the immigrants who spread the wildest tales about the feeling of dissatisfaction among the Russian people. A large part of these anti-communists have unmasked themselves while working with Germans. They were liquidated! Not only those conspiring with civilian authorities, but especially all my soldiers in the SS divisions from the East who were turned over to the Russians against all previously made pacts. What is left of Kosacks and Ukrainians (Bandeira Schankuro and the followers of Wellnik) is fast losing faith in the Western powers in view of my indictment and the treatment given me. Especially my case is being used by the Russian propaganda machine. Everybody knows that all this is done by the Jewry. It just is a fact that the jews are the carriers of bolshevism. This is a known fact among the people of the East from their own experience.

There is no sense in kidding yourself about it. Germany lost the war on account of that after she had victory already in both hands. You must look soberly at realities. I am really surprised that this sober America still has not stopped its old war propaganda. My opinion remains! Russia is still under the law of the desert--victory or destruction--everything or nothing. Her philosophy of life is her religion. It calls for extreme nationalism and personal risk and therefore it promises on the other hand uninhibited enjoyment of life. It is not easy to fight a thing like that. It is not solved by leaving Europe to herself because that sort of philosophy jumps over oceans too.

It is a pity that you are so far away. After these 3 years I would like to talk again to a real American and a good soldier.

With best wishes I remain

Yours

Gottlob Berger