

THE SECRET PROTOCOL:
HIDDEN TRUTH OF SOVIET GUILT AT NUREMBERG

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During the Nuremberg Trials, in 1946, Dr. Alfred Seidl, counsel for Rudolf Hess, learned that a secret protocol had been signed between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union on August 23, 1939. This secret protocol, which was part of the Nonaggression Pact, defined specific spheres of interest between these two contracting parties in much of Eastern Europe at the outbreak of war. Seidl reasoned therefore, that if he could prove that such a deal had been concluded, then the Soviets, who were participating as both judges and prosecutors at Nuremberg, were equally guilty of the two counts truly threatening to convict his client, i.e., conspiracy to wage aggressive war and crimes against peace.

The objective of this thesis has been to support Seidl's contention of Soviet guilt, as it stood in relation to his defense of Rudolf Hess. For example, the first two chapters dealt with the terms of the secret protocol and the talks and correspondence (between the Russian and German leadership) that brought it about. Chapter One shows that it was the Soviets who not only initiated the idea for the protocol but later demanded that it be part of any final overall agreement. This clearly proved, as was the intent of this thesis, that the leadership of the U.S.S.R. willingly and knowingly conspired with the Nazis to wage aggressive war; and once the Nuremberg Trials opened (Chapter III), the Soviets fought with methodical tenacity to keep the potentially incriminating evidence of the secret protocol from the proceedings (Chapter IV).

In the conclusion of this thesis the case against the Soviets becomes fully developed. While their conspiracy with Hitler was continuing the Soviets finally commenced with their crimes against peace. According to the terms of the secret protocol (Chapter II), Bessarabia, the Baltic States and part of Poland were designated to fall within the Russian sphere of interest. This became an accomplished fact when the U.S.S.R. invaded these smaller countries and later incorporated each of them as well. Being that none posed a clear threat to the security of Russia this military act in itself became a blatant crime against peace.

It is important to note, that Dr. Alfred Seidl was unable to obtain an original, signed copy of the secret protocol. For this reason the Tribunal disallowed his photostatic copy of the protocol or the Gaus

Affidavit (Chapter III) to be admitted as evidence, thereby severely damaging his case. Therefore, this thesis, The Secret Protocol: Hidden Truth of Soviet Guilt at Nuremberg, developed and proved Seidl's charge that the Soviet Union, for the reasons already mentioned, were equally guilty of the crimes that condemned Rudolf Hess to life imprisonment in Spandau.