

Secret Letter to the Reich Foreign Minister, Asking for
Approval of Sending 10.000 Hungarian Jews to Forced
Labor at TODT Company (German Armament Industry),
Berlin 1943

SECRET MATTER

Reich Minister Speer presented the following question here through his assistant vice president Dr. Fraenk.

In order to maintain production in the copper mines of Bor, Serbia, which production is of decisive importance for the German armament industry, the organization TODT requires ten thousand laborers for Bor. Attempts to secure those laborers in Serbia were unsuccessful. The efforts of the ministry in Sofia to bring approximately 3000 men of the Boharian labor service to Bor seem to have had little success. Under these circumstances, he said the utilization of ten thousand Jews from Hungary was being considered as a last resort. Ambassador von JAGOW had had an unofficial conference with the Hungarian Honved Ministry which agreed to the utilization of Jews working for construction companies and Jews guarded by the Hungarian Army at Bor. The approval of the Hungarian government, however, was still forthcoming. (Illegible handwritten notes).

Reich Minister Speer now requests that the ministry in Budapest be instructed to press for the immediate approval of the Hungarian government. Vice President Dr. Fraenk remarked that the *Reich Fuehrer* SS approved of such utilization of Hungarian Jews at Bor.

I suggest that you instruct the ministry in Budapest to take up the matter now officially with the Hungarian government and to exert all efforts towards the fulfillment of Reich Minister Speer's (or OT's) decision pertaining to the extraordinary importance of the copper production in Bor for the German armament industry.

Herewith submitted. By way of Director Trade Pol. Div. (in handwriting: W 23) and under State Secretary Pol. Div. (in handwr: W 23) as well as by way of the State Secretary (in handr: W 23) to the Office of the Reich Foreign

Minister with the request to facilitate the decision of the Reich Foreign Minister.

Berlin, 23 February, 1943

Source: Yad Vashem Archives TR2N11\1009\NG 5629, PART