

Himmler Orders the Arrest and Execution of Members of the Oppositional Czech Intelligentsia after the Attack on Heydrich (May 27, 1942)

Abstract

After the attack on Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi leadership immediately responded with broad retaliatory measures against the Czech civilian population. As this May 27, 1942, telex from Himmler to State Secretary Karl Hermann Frank makes clear, these measures included the mass arrest and shooting of alleged “oppositional intellectuals.” Here, Himmler instructs Frank to imprison 10,000 members of the oppositional Czech intelligentsia and to shoot the 100 most important perpetrators that very same night. He ends by noting that he will call Frank later that night. The search for the true attackers, who were hiding in the crypt of Prague’s Charles Borromeo Church, yielded nothing at first. After their hiding place was betrayed, they committed suicide on June 18, 1942.

Source

Fernschreibliche <i>Prag/Himmler</i>	
Kategorie Nr.	
Fernschreibname	
Wegenommen:	Wefidoneit:
Mufgenommen:	Datum:
Datum: <i>21/12</i>	um:
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von:	durch:
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* B L I T Z SDZ HEINRICH NR . 5745 27.5.42. 21.05/ HER == AN H=GRUPPENFUEHRER FRANK PRAG == SOFORT VORLEGEN == 1 G E H E I M == 1.) MIT DER VEROFFENTLICHUNG EINVERSTANDEN== 2.) UNTER DEN BEFOHLENE 10.000 GEISLERN SIND IN ERSTER LINIE DIE GESAMTE OPOSITIONELLE TSCHECHISCHE INTELIGENZ ZU VERHAFTEN. == 3.) VON DEN HAUPTGEGNERN, AUS DIESER TSCHECHISCHEN INTELIGENZ, SIND HEUTE NACHT BEREITS DIE HUNDERT WICHTIGSTENS ZU ERSCHIESSEN. == ICH RUFE SIE HEUTE NACHT NOCH AN. == GEZ: H. H I M M L E R == <i>Himmler</i>	
<i>Schubert</i> <i>23</i>	
Unterschrift des Auftraggebers Unterschrift des Auftragnehmers	

Source: Heinrich Himmler’s order to arrest and execute the oppositional Czech intelligentsia. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30016820. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

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