

INTERVIEW WITH
Dr. Hans von Herwarth
by
Mr. William K. Jones
Curator
on
August 6, 1975
for
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library



Gift of Personal Statement
Hans von Herwarth
to the
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended (63 Stat. 377) and regulations issued thereunder, I, Hans von Herwarth, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America for eventual deposit in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a transcript of a personal statement approved by me on 15th July 1976 and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library. The gift of this document is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Title to the material transferred hereunder will pass to the United States as of the date of the delivery of this material into the physical custody of the Archivist of the United States.

2. It is the donor's wish to make the material donated to the United States of America by the terms of



this instrument available for research as soon as it has been deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

3. A revision of the above stipulation governing access to the aforesaid document may be entered into between the donor and the Archivist of the United States or his designee if it appears desirable to revise the conditions herein stipulated.

4. The material donated to the United States pursuant to the foregoing shall be kept intact permanently in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

5. The donor retains to himself during his lifetime all literary property rights in the material donated to the United States of America by the terms of this instrument. After the death of the donor, the aforesaid literary property rights will pass to the United States of America.

Signed James E. O'Neill

Date: Sept 1st, 1976

Accepted James E. O'Neill
Acting Archivist of the United States



Date: September 15, 1976

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Signed

Paul van der Kerk

Date: Sept 1st, 1976

Accepted

James E. O'Neill
Acting Archivist of the United States

Date:


September 15, 1976



Conversation with Hans von Herwarth, August 6, 1975

MR. JONES: If you would identify yourself on that, I would appreciate it.

MR. VON HERWARTH: Yes, I am Hans von Herwarth, a retired under secretary of state. After the second world war, I served under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and President Theodore Heuss, first in Bonn from 1949-1955, later on as ambassador in London 1955-1961 and then again as chief of the presidential office of President Heinrich Lübke in Bonn 1961-1965. I still remember when General when General Eisenhower, as Supreme Commander of NATO, in January 1951 came to Germany. He stayed with John McCloy who was then the High Commissioner. It was just before Germany was re-armed and was scheduled to become a member of NATO. So the American government and also General Eisenhower decided to come over and have a look at the new allies, if I may say so. A reception was arranged in Homburg, near Frankfurt, where Mr. McCloy lived. He had two residences--one near Frankfurt and one in Bonn. Between 100 and 200 of our leading German people were invited to meet General Eisenhower in Homburg. General Eisenhower had read two or three days before, so I



was told by American friends, a very good book by a British brigadier on field marshal Rommel [Desmond Young "Rommel", London 1953]. He was very much impressed by field marshal Rommel and his tragic end. Rommel was assassinated by Hitler after having taken part in the twentieth of July plot. General Eisenhower was feeling great sympathy not only for field marshal Rommel but also for some of the other Germans who served in the German armed forces. It was most impressive when we shook hands with him; evidently he had been informed of every single of us who had been in the armed forces during world war number two. When I was introduced to him he said, "I learned you have been in the German army. I must apologize because I gave you a rather harsh treatment after '45. I hope you will forget it and forgive me because from now on we will be together and we will be allies. I think that's a very good thing." I couldn't nearly answer so touched I was. These magnanimous words made an enormous impression on all Germans present. Those who later on were responsible for building up the German armed forces like General Adolph Heusinger, General Hans Speidel, were present too. They said afterwards, "Well, General Eisenhower has again won a battle



against the Germans. He won us over."

MR. JONES: Very good story. Thank you. You were also on Chancellor Adenauer's trip to the United States.

MR. VON HERWARTH: Yes, I was.

MR. JONES: ...and served during that. Did anything happen during that?

MR. VON HERWARTH: No, nothing what I would--I was not--we wouldn't keep a record, you know.

MR. JONES: Okay.

[Interruption]



MR. VON HERWARTH: President Heuss was elected first president of the Federal Republic in '49. We moved into a provisional building, which was very small; I had an office room which served also as bedroom. The president had with his wife only three rooms. That was all.

The first foreign correspondents who came to see President Heuss were two American correspondents. I don't remember which paper they represented--was it New York Times or Time & Life.

They asked him, "Mr. President, what is the most outstanding factor which happened after this war?"

President Heuss answered, "I will tell you exactly what in my opinion the most outstanding factor was. Up to the 8th of May '45 the American tax-payer paid his money to destroy Nazi Germany. From the 10th of May '45 he paid his money to reconstruct Germany."

MR. JONES: Oh, that's a great story.

