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The Holocaust in Ukraine – The Pogroms of 1941

Translation: *A03 In a Telegram on 29 June 1941, Security Police and Security Service (SD) Chief Reinhard Heydrich Encourages Pogroms*

Copy !

Head of Office IV

Berlin, 29 June 1941

Telex: (sent 29 June 1941 NÜ-No. 101294)

To the Head, Einsatzgruppe of the Security Police/Security Service, SS Brigade Leader N e b e

“ “ Head, Einsatzgruppe of the Security Police/Security Service, SS Standard Leader O h l e
n d o r f

“ “ Head, Einsatzgruppe of the Security Police/Security Service, SS Brigade Leader Dr. R a
s c h

“ “ Head, Einsatzgruppe of the Security Police/Security Service, SS Brigade Leader S t a h l
e c k e r.

With reference to my oral instructions on 17 June in Berlin, I wish to call your attention once more to the following:

1) The attempts by local anti-Communist or anti-Jewish circles to engage in cleansing activities within the territories now to be occupied should not be hindered in any way. On the contrary, they must be implemented, and intensified when necessary, though without leaving a trace, and directed onto the right path. But this should be done in such a manner that the local 'self-defence circles' cannot later refer to orders or any political assurances given.

Since for obvious reasons such a course of action is possible within the initial period of military occupation, the Einsatzgruppen and special task forces of the Security Police [SP]

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and Security Service [SD] must, in cooperating with the military offices, strive to move in as quickly as possible (at least into the newly occupied territories) with an advance party so that they can carry out what is required.

Only those members of the SP and SD are to be selected as leaders who have the necessary degree of political tact and sensitivity.

Initially the formation of self-defence units in constant operation with a central leadership should be avoided; in their stead, where expedient, local popular pogroms should be initiated, as described above.

2) In this connection, I call your attention once more to the obligation to report.

Already now I note there is an absence of such regularly submitted reports.

All reports should be sent to me personally. For that purpose, I have created a central intelligence transmission office directly subordinate to me; its duties inter alia also include the distribution of the reports to the RSHA offices concerned.

I personally reserve the right to forward a summary report to the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police.

Only in the case of an express individual order has the Reichsführer-SS authorised a report by the Einsatzgruppen of the Security Police and Security Service to be submitted directly to him.

Head of the Security Police and Security Service

(signed) Heydrich.

translated by William Templer