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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Friedrich Mennecke's Deposition on the Killing of Jewish Concentration Camp Prisoners

Excerpted from Mennecke's statement on January 17, 1947, in the trial vs. Karl Brandt, et. al.

Questions: The questions were those of Dr. Robert Servatius, attorney for the defendant Karl Brandt. Answers: the replies of the witness Dr. Mennecke.

Question: You stated earlier that medical criteria determined the selection? Answer: Yes. Question:

You also said that questionnaires were filled out for the concentration camp prisoners. Answer:

Yes. Question: You also stated that political prisoners and Jews were also evaluated. Answer:

Yes. Question: What were the relevant criteria? Answer: It has already been discussed, Mr. Attorney.

The Jews were not judged by their state of

health, but on the reasons for their arrest.

Question: There were, therefore, political and racial criteria?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Who had ordered you to proceed according to these guidelines?

Answer: I already told you. There were several people. This procedure was suggested by

Professor [Paul] Nietsche, also Prof. [Werner] Heyde, or also by [Viktor] Brack.

Question: Isn't this a complete disparity with what was said at first?

Answer: Yes. In any case, that had nothing to do with the euthanasia psychiatric patients.

Question: When was the first time that this racial or political procedure was implemented? Was it

already during your first visit to a concentration

camp? Answer: No.

Question: When did it take place?

Answer: In my opinion, it began in Buchenwald or perhaps in Dachau.

Question: Please give us a clear date. Was it before or after euthanasia was stopped?

Answer: It was probably before euthanasia was stopped.

Question: How did it proceed before? What was your assignment in the concentration camps?

Answer: To examine certain prisoners to see if psychoses or psychopathology were present.

Question: Initially, it was a question of psychiatric illness?

Answer: A medical question.

Question: And later it became a political or racial question?

Answer: Yes, that is, in addition to the political and racial question, I later also had to evaluate again by purely medical [standards].

Question: You later also had two cases to be evaluated on political and racial grounds, in addition to psychiatric patients who were to be evaluated on medical grounds?

Answer: You really can't separate the two, Mr. Attorney. They were not well defined and clearly

distinct.

Question: Do you mean to say that if you had to examine a large number of Jews, that all of them were simultaneously also mentally ill?

Answer: I have already taken a position on that, by which I mean that I am of the opinion that they weren't ill at all, neither mentally nor otherwise.

Question: But you filled out the questionnaire?

Answer: Yes, it was mandated from Berlin.

Question: And who was to evaluate these questionnaires?

Answer: I do not know.

Question: Did you believe that after you were done, a physician would take charge of making such decisions?

Answer: I didn't know what decisions a physician would have made concerning the Jews based on the questionnaires.

Dr. Servatius: I have no more questions for this witness.