

Statement

Re: Plans for the establishment of a Germanic Research Institute / Norwegian Research Association

- 1.) During the month of June SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert, formerly leader of the Department for Agriculture and Nutrition under the Reichskommissar, now charged with writing a paper on "Political peasantry and Human Settlements" and appointed R.u.S.-Leader in Norway, informed SS-Sturmbannführer Leib that he intended to revive the here existing institute for comparative cultural research (Institutet for sammenlignende kulturforskning, Oslo) for the purpose of activating the research in the areas of Germanic ethnology and culture. His aim is to appoint as leader of this institute Mehle, the director of the Norwegian broadcasting corporation. The plan was simultaneously submitted to SS-Oberführer Ellersiek, who was here at the time. Although Leib immediately and clearly expressed a negative position against this plan, he decided nevertheless to get to know Mehle better. He invited Dr. Richert and Mehle to dine with him. In the course of the two hour conversation that followed, it became clear that Mehle followed purely personal goals, seeking to obtain a proper professorship at the university by means of the presidency of the above-mentioned institute. SS-Sturmbannführer Leib consequently reject the plans of Dr. Richert with a reference to the fact that an institute embodied by such a useless bureaucrat as him could not accomplish any fruitful work. The same opinion was held by the SD and SS-Oberführer Ellersiek took a position against the plan. In response to this united opposition, SS-Obersturmbannführer Richert abandoned his plan.
- 2.) For about two years, the SD has been working through SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Ritz to establish in Norway a professional association dedicated to research in the areas of racial biology and racial history. This concept found a strong advocate in Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser, leader of the department "Science and School" within the Reichskommissariat. After an appropriate person for the leadership of such an association was finally found in Rector Saxlund, discussion began throughout the course of July between Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser, SS-Sturmbannführer Leib and SS-Obersturmführer Ritz. The goal was to bring to life within the scope of a greater research association a dedicated association for racial biology and racial history, which would be loosely affiliated with the department of Minister Skancke.
- 3.) With the visit of SS-Gruppenführer Hofman at the end of June, the following plans were initiated:
 - a) A conversation between SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann, SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert and Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser took place. The old plan for the establishment of a Norwegian research association somewhat in the style of the German Kaiser Wilhelm Society was discussed anew. Within this research association, which is designed to provide for unified management of the entire non-university scientific research in Norway and will fill the role of the many currently existing research institutes outside of the university, individual departments should be created for the individual sectors of the entire scientific work, dependent upon availability of the appropriate resources. The leadership of the

- research association should be a renowned Norwegian scientist, the vice-presidency should be held by a German scholar, and similarly the German influence should be ensured in all individual departments. The considerable financial resources of the currently existing to-be-liquidated individual organizations should be transferred to the new research association. The sector of Racial Biology should be the first to be created, with Director Saxlund as the prospective leader. Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser was prompted to record the plan in the form of a white paper. The prototype should then be submitted to the Reichsführer-SS for a decision. Only after this response should the proposal be sent to the Reichskommissar with the stated position of the Norwegian Department for further action. The white paper was completed on 8/11 and sent to the SD with the request that it be passed on. Part of the paper was sent to SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert.
- b) At the same time, meetings were also held in the presence of SS-Sturmbannführer Leib in which the question of Germanic cultural research came into question many times. SS-Obersturmbannführer Richert presented SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann his far-reaching plan for the establishment of a Germanic research institute under the leadership of Dr. Richert. SS-Sturmbannführer Leib fought against this position, pointing out that it would be a mistake to start with the foundation of an institute, that one must begin with the creation of smaller work circles. In the final discussion, Dr. Richert asked SS-Gruppenführer Hofman the deciding question of whether he should bring into being at this point such an institute in Norway. SS-Gruppenführer Hofman said on the topic something along the lines of: "That must be decided by you here in Norway, I wish to keep my hands out of it. As Head of the R.u.S. Main Office I will only be involved with this institute as far as it impacts my areas of responsibility, primarily in the form of a racial biology advisor. A historian, etc., must be appointed by the "Ahnenerbe"." – Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser was not informed about these plans of Dr. Richert. He only became aware of them on 9/15 through SS-Hauptsturmführer Schwalm.
- 4.) As a result of the Headquarters Order from SS-Gruppenführer Berger of 8/14/1942 (Nr. 14/42), SS-Hauptsturmführer Professor Schwalm was assigned as representative of the "Ahnenerbe" to the Germanische Freiwillige Leitstelle and travelled at the end of August to Norway with SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Schneider to begin the work.
- 5.) At the beginning of September, SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert presented SS-Obergruppenführer a comprehensive white paper with the plan for establishment of a Germanic Research institute which in addition to racial biology would unite all other sectors of Germanic cultural research within itself. The institute should be under the leadership of SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert. The representative of the "Ahnenerbe" should oversee the corresponding work areas of the institute as department head. This plan was rejected outright by SS-Gruppenführer Redieß and Dr. Richert was informed in a personal discussion. The reflection period requested by SS-Obergruppenführer Redieß was used by SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert to again lay down his plans in a short paper, which he presented to SS-Obergruppenführer Redieß. In this same period, Dr. Richert traveled to Berlin.

- 6.) In order to learn the position of SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann on the plans of Dr. Richert, SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Schneider organized a meeting in the R.u.S. Main Office following his return from Norway on 9/8/1942. SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers was also pulled into this at the last minute. It turned out to be the case that SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Richert was present. SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann began by stating that he regretted not having been involved in the above-mentioned order of the day by SS-Gruppenführer Berger. In addition, he indicated that he valued greatly close collaboration and consensus with the "Ahnenerbe". He recognized the leadership and stewardship of the "Ahnenerbe" over the scientific research in Germanic countries. It was agreed that a meeting should be held for coordination of common work and clarification of the situation in Norway. The meeting was scheduled for 10/1/1942 in the "Ahnenerbe" office and should include SS-Gruppenführer with R.u.S.-Führer of Norway and the R.u.S.-Führer of the Netherlands as well as several other R.u.S. leaders from the Main Office. From the "Ahnenerbe", the following would be present: SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers, SS-Sturmbannführer Plaßmann, SS-Hauptsturmführer Professor Schwalm and SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Schneider. SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Riedweg should also be invited.
- 7.) In a meeting with Minister Füglesang at a reception given by the Reichskommissar on 9/15, Füglesange reported to SS-Sturmbannführer Leib about the plan for the establishment of an R.u.S. office within the N.S. This plan goes back to the proposal which Füglesang received during his visit to the R.u.S. Main Office in Berlin. It must be absolutely attempted to deflect these plans. The breaking out of an important sector of the total work is not desirable. A purely R.u.S. office of the N.S. would largely strip the work of its intended German control.

Oslo, on 9/17/1942

Schwalm

SS-Hauptsturmführer

- 1.) SS-Gruppenführer Berger
- 2.) SS-Sturmbannführer Leib
- 3.) SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers
- 4.) SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Schneider
- 5.) Files.