

Internal Reich Authorities' Correspondence on the Transfer of 280 Dutch Hostages from Buchenwald to a Camp in Holland, Berlin 1941

Foreign Office

Berlin W 8, 23 August 1941

Wilhelmstrasse 74-76 R 23497

Subject:: Accommodation for Dutch hostages in Holland.

The Dutch nationals, about 280 in number, who were arrested in the Summer of 1940 in retaliation for the instrument of Reich Germans in the Dutch East Indies, are at present accommodated in the concentration camp Buchenwald near Weimar. Last Winter, however, it became apparent that these inmates could not stand the local climate and a number of deaths resulted. It is therefore intended to transfer the Dutch internees to a camp which is to be built in Holland, before Winter sets in, since the climate there is more favorable and since it might be possible to take better care of the internees there. Furthermore, the transfer of the internees to Holland would have the advantage of eliminating contact with the protecting power.

Since the onset of the cold season is imminent, the equipment of a camp in Holland has become a matter of extreme urgency. The Reich commissioner for the occupied Dutch territories, who was asked to take the necessary steps, answered however that, although he was prepared to accommodate the internees in Holland, he could only do this if he received a definite order to that effect from the Reich.

To: Reich Minister and Chief of Reich Chancellory, Berlin

It is therefore requested that the Reich commissioner for the occupied Dutch territories be asked to take the necessary steps, and that expenses arising out of this be treated as administrative expenses for the occupied Dutch territories.

Please inform me of measures taken.

By order

Signed Dr. Albrecht

To: Bk. 12582 B

S. Ru. 13096 g

Berlin, 29 August 1941

Subject: Accommodation of Dutch Hostages.

1). Note:

The Foreign Office informed us of the following: In the Summer of 1940 280 Dutch hostages were accommodated in the concentration camp Buchenwald. These quarters proved unsatisfactory during last Winter. It is therefore intended to accommodate the hostages in Holland. The Reich Commissioner for the occupied Dutch territories is said to have stated that he is prepared to accommodate the internees in Holland, but that he could only do this if he received a definite order from the Reich. The Foreign Office asks that a request to that effect be made to the Reich Commissioner.

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Berlin, 30 August 1941

The Reich Minister and Chief Of the Reich Chancellery at recent Fuehrer's Headquarters

The Foreign Office Representative

Den Haag, 19 Sept. 1941

With reference to the report dated 2 Sept. 1941 – D Pol 3 No. 5c\1627-2nd copy.

Subject: Internees in Buchenwald.

Please note that, as a result of earlier conferences and reports, it will probably be possible to effect the transfer of the Dutchmen interned in Buchenwald at the beginning of October. As had been reported earlier, the Reich Commissioner has ordered two requisitioned monasteries to be prepared for the Dutchmen who are to be interned there. The work is so far ad... that for the time being the Dutchmen to be transferred from Buchenwald can be accommodated. There is probably room for about 1000\1200 people in these two monasteries.

The Reich Commissioner has yet received no reply to his letter to Reich Minister Dr. Lammers.

Signed Betz

The Dutch hostages in the Buchenwald concentration camp were transferred on 15 November 1941 in a special train. The journey was free from incident. The Prisoners arrived at the quarters prepared for them at Hortogonbosch on 16 November 1941.

Source : Yad Vashem Archives TR 2\N11\1009\NI2469, PART