

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

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Germans and the Holocaust – The Decision-Making Process

Translation: C01 Heydrich letter to Ribbentrop regarding the "Territorial Final Solution"

Letter by the Chief of the Reich Police and SD (IV D 4 – 1574/40), signed Heydrich, to the Reich Foreign Minister, SS Major General Joachim von Ribbentrop, dated 24.6.1940

Dear Party Comrade von Ribbentrop!

In his capacity as Commissioner for the Four Year Plan, the Field Marshal General commissioned myself in January 1939 with implementing Jewish emigration from the whole Reich territory. Despite difficulties, in the following period it proved possible to successfully continue with Jewish emigration, even during the war. Since my office took responsibility for this task on 1 January 1939, over 200,000 Jews have emigrated from the Reich territory until now. *The overall problem* – there are already around 3¼ million Jews in the territories now standing today under German sovereignty – can no longer be solved *through emigration* however. A territorial final solution is therefore necessary.

May I request that I be allowed to participate in any forthcoming discussions concerned with the final solution of the Jewish question should any be planned.

Heil Hitler!

Translated by Paul Bowman