

Note re an interview with Pt. Christa Schroeder at her  
home, 8 Munich 2, Erbacherstr. 6, from 9-10<sup>30</sup> pm, 30 Nov 1970.

Institut für Zeitgeschichte C-IV	
Alz. 4770/72	Best. ZS 2240
Rep.	Kat.

- At first Pt. Schroeder was disconcertingly cold, but as I conversed with her and made no attempt to "pump" her, she became increasingly friendly and warm - just before I left - she showed me her treasures: four pens and ink slabs by Stihle (table, bridge, ball etc) and a pencil stub of a vagabond, perhaps of Stihle as he saw himself. I invited her to dinner on Wednesday at 8 pm.; she is amused by the idea, and I am to telephone her at 7<sup>15</sup> pm. (she may still change her mind.)
- Impression: an honest, upright woman, with memory of detail provided not harassed; positive towards Stihle, but not unconditionally. She stressed that towards individuals she was warm and human, but towards anonymous masses (Jews, the German public, etc.) she could be very cold. Aged about 70 (she says she worked 45 years, is not a pensioner.) She is very embarrassed about publication of memoirs. The *Impressions* she wrote in captivity were pirated and published, heavily bowdlerized and with critical comment interspersed ("Stihle privat") by the French office who obtained them. She fought a lawsuit against him, but now just wants peace. She is bitter that the rubbish put into her mouth by the Frenchmen has caused an estrangement between herself and people like Otto Günsche.

Indexed

224

001

3. She had a fierce row with Hitler when she lunched with him (she showed his clock) and one other female secretary at Berlin after the return from Bad Nauheim (1945). Hitler had arrived late for lunch, in a bleak mood after a row at the Taggesprächung. He had begun talking about the lack of a Nachfolge, and that Hess had flown and Göring had lost possibility. Prof. Schroeder mentioned Strömberg, and Hitler dismissed the suggestion - "das ist vollkommen unmusikalisch!" "Das spielt kaum eine Rolle bei der heutigen Lage!" retorted Prof. Schroeder, and Hitler bellowed at her, "Was bilden Sie sich ein, das Sie mich unterlegen!" She then apologized, and proposed that they talk politics no further.

4. She does not believe anything has recently been seen of Frau Manjary.

Note on the Second Interview of Frl Christa Schroeder at her home in Munich from 9 p.m. to 12.10 a.m. 2 December 1970.

1.) Frl Schroeder recalled one occasion in the summer of 1938 as public unrest about a possible war was growing. She, Hitler and Martin Bormann were sitting in the garden enclosure of the "Osteria", at lunch; she was emboldened by the spirits she had drunk to relate to Hitler a story popular among the local population. "Es wird gesagt, mein Führer, dass bei der heutigen Lage es zwei Alternativen gibt: entweder gibt es Krieg, oder es gibt nicht. Gibt es kein Krieg - das ist gut. Gibt es Krieg, dann gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du kommst an die Front, oder du kommst in die Etappe. Kommst du in die Etappe, das ist gut. Kommst du in die Front, dann gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du wirst erschossen oder du wirst nicht erschossen; wirst du nicht erschossen, das ist gut. Wirst du erschossen, gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du wirst verwundet oder du wirst getötet. Wirst du nur verwundet, das ist gut; wirst du getötet, gibt es zwei Möglichkeiten: du kommst in einen Massengrab oder du kommst in einen Einzelgrab. Kommst du in einen Einzelgrab, das ist gut, kommst du ..." By this time Hitler was roaring helplessly with laughter, shaking with laughter, slapping his thigh, and the story was halted. Bormann said to Frl Schroeder, "Wenn Sie nur zweimal im Jahr den Führer in eine solche Stimmung bringen können, dann haben Sie ihr Geld verdient!"

2.) Frl Schroeder recalled the occasion on which (late 1941?) the Teegesellschaften abends were temporarily halted. Hitler had launched forth on one occasion on the topic of the evils of smoking and drinking, und dabei hatte er Jodl (?) gefragt, ob auch die Soldaten die Nichtraucher und Nichttrinker waren, Zigarette erhielten an der Front. Die Frage wurde bejaht, and he expressed his dissatisfaction with this. Thereupon sagte Frl Schroeder, etwa, "Mein Führer, die armen Schweine haben wirklich nichts, man sollte ihnen wenigstens diese Kleinigkeiten zulassen." Hitler replied that smoking and drinking was most unhealthy, whereupon Frl Schroeder tactlessly referred to the example of Heinrich Hoffmann, der ja mehr als jeder andere Mensch im Führerhauptquartier

Indexed

trank und rauchte, aber "der agilste Mensch im Führerhauptquartier" sei. She said this more out of irritation than anything. For a moment there was eisiges Schweigen, then Hitler abruptly rose and took his leave of them. Next day Albert Bormann (?) announced that the evening Teegesellschaften would not take place any more. Fr. Wolf, and then Fr. Schroeder tried to vermitteln, without success. Hitler would not accept Schroeder's apology. He did not speak to her at all for one year. Once (?) he asked for her to sit at his side, when Fr. Exner arrived at the FHQu about a year later, but throughout the meal he spoke only to Exner and not to her at all, which was more hurtful to Fr. Schroeder than if he had not invited her. Then early in the spring of 1943 he undertook a ~~flight~~<sup>journey</sup> to the front line (Fr. Schroeder mentioned the name: not Saporosche or Sevastopol, something --- orod ?) and it was in the train, on this occasion, or at the headquarters, that Hitler suddenly asked her if she was satisfied with her accommodation there. Thus the ice was broken again.

3.) In the spring of 1944 she was seriously ill, in hospital at Bad Gastein. On her birthday\* in March (she was 34 in 1943 when Fr. Humpal came) in March 1944, Hitler sent Fr. Christian with some bottles of Sekt from Eva Braun, and with a birthday card in his own handwriting. She was so moved that she wrote an emotional letter to him, and even undertook to give up smoking - a minor victory which moved Hitler to read out the letter several times to the fireside acquaintances at the Berghof.

4.) Fr. Schroeder was also witness of the occasion when Frau v. Schirach protested to Hitler about the deportation of Dutch Jews she had witnessed. The protest was made during the evening Teegesellschaft, am Kamin im grossen Saal des Berghofs. On the next day Fr. v. Schirach was obliged by Hitler to leave the Berghof, and she never returned. [See page 217 above]

5.) By chance she and Fr. Christian were present at the first few Lagebesprechungen in Rastenburg as the first great victories were reported. She well remembers Hitler pointing to Moscow on the map (as early as then), and saying, "In vier Wochen werden wir in Moskau sein, und dann werde ich Moskau dem Erdboden gleichmachen." Then their presence was noticed and they were asked to leave. The Lage was in the Kasino at Rastenburg at that time.

6.) Fr1. Schroeder showed a number of photographs of that time, about 30 all told, including her, v. Below, Fr Christian, Hewel, Richard Schulze, und Werner Koeppen. The latter, it turns out, is her best friend, lives now in Munich as director der Allianz, with address

Dr Werner Koeppen  
8 München 23  
Brandenburgerstr 6

telephone (Büro) München 2302401; (Wohnung) München 340580.

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv

ZS 2240-6

Note on an Interview of Frau Christa Schroeder, at  
her flat, Munich, Entenbühlstr. 6, from 8<sup>10</sup> to 11<sup>50</sup> pm,  
19 June 1971.

---

1. Most interesting was the discovery that Fr. Schroeder had written precestral memoirs (Aufszeichnungen) over the last years; these, in several tiny orders, she keeps in a box under her bed. From her discussion of the Scheut, etc. papers, I formed the impression (only) that she is interested in a financial arrangement, but I did not make any attempt to see the papers, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> I stressed I had never (except for two exceptions [Capt Morris and James Cochrane]) paid for information.
2. Her Kraach with Hitler about Hoffmann and Las Rouben started (see Interview #1) she thinks, during the first Russian crisis (winter 1941) and ended December 1942(?) one year later, when Hitler flew with his staff to Dnepropetrovsk; he had to take Fr. Sch., because Fr. Wolf was too old for such rigorous conditions. During the flight he dictated an Hinruf an die Soldaten der Ostfront. - Fr. Schroeder considers it unfair that the remaining staff cold-shouldered her as soon as they detected she was in Ugnade.
3. She saw the letters of Geli Raubal (d.t. of various Verhältnisse to G.L.) being burnt in the courtyard of Berghof in April 1945; she guesses they had been transferred there (to the tunnels) after the suicide. Frau Raubal was Haus-hälterin auf dem Berghof. Von ihr wurde mir gesprochen.
4. The complaint by Frau Schroeder about treatment of the Jews was after their return from a visit to (?) Amsterdam, where they had seen forced deportation and remodeling up

of the Jews. At this time Baldur was still Reichstatthalter in Wien. Hitler disliked Wien; when Schirack tried talking of Wien he replied [on this occasion?], "Über Wien wollen wir garnicht reden." The emigration about Jews took place at the Berghof. Hitler refused to discuss politics and the Schiracks, who had intended staying several days, left prematurely the morning after they arrived. Fr. Sch. cannot confirm Frau v. P.'s statement quoting Hitler on "Gleichgewicht" des Deutschen.

- 5. She confirmed the story of Dampis and the Fliege, except that Dampis apparently stood watching Hitler's efforts & dis-  
gust of the flea with some cynical amusement; Hitler observed the expression on his face and burst out also, "Wenn ein Kleinat about in der Lage ist, ein Schlachtschiff zu erbeuten, erwarte ich dass ein Oberstuf. d. SS eine Fliege erbeuten kann!" (She herself was not present.) She attributes Dampis' downfall also to Fegelein.
- 6. Eva Braun rejoiced to her after Fegelein's wedding to Goeth, that <sup>as</sup> Fegelein's "sister in law" she was at last "somebody", with a right to be at the Berghof.
- 7. In the train on the eve of Frankreichfeldzug: morning servants were told to prepare to depart that evening. At least for how long, Schomb mysteriously replied, <sup>(also</sup> "Es könnte sich um Tage handeln, oder um Wochen, oder um Monaten." That evening Hitler told them they were bound for Norway (!) But on the way the train was reversed and headed west.
- 8. Bonnam's secretary is now wife of Professor James, Cambridge.

Institut für

Notes on an Interview of Krl. Alwista, Schwede, over  
Lunch, Regina Palace Hotel, 1-2<sup>30</sup> pm 10. Sept 1971.

1. She showed <sup>(typewritten)</sup> receipts from her post-war Lager Aufzeichnungen.  
One was following story. She and Hitler were walking in  
darkness at Fuhrenhauptquartier "Wolfsschanze", late in  
1944. She stumbled slightly in the darkness, recalled  
she had left her Taschenlampe on the desk in Hitler's  
office. Hitler sent a liaison bank to collect it. Liaison  
returned empty-handed. - it was not there. Hitler  
jokingly said he had not taken it: "Ich bin zwar ein  
Häufiger aber kein Häufigstehler. Die Kleinen  
werden [aufgehängt], die grossen lässt man laufen."  
In Schwäbischen Dialekt - die Schwaben being of mercenary repute.
2. Hitler's Einstellung gegen Spanien und Kirche als  
Schulkind. Erzählte von seinem Religionsprofessor  
der ein in schwäbischer Dialekt bei ihm herbe.  
The handwriting was so old that the teacher literally  
had to pull it apart every time he wanted to use it.
3. She enlarged on her acquaintance with Martin Bormann  
which reached back to the early 1930's and beyond, when  
she had been <sup>(a Party)</sup> his secretary when he had merely <sup>aufgehört und</sup> verwaltet  
die Sicherungs <sup>masse</sup> parti der SA und Partei [paying miserables  
to those injured in street fighting.] He had then married  
the daughter of Walter Borch, and through this marriage -  
eine reine Zweckhe - he had shot to prominence in  
the party; she was elegant, flat-chested and devoted



to Martin, who treated her in an unbecoming manner, even in front of important guests - "you can go back to bed now dear", he would say when she came to greet his guests. She has been her children. Hannig Mann for Schroeder for many years. Mann always treated her very humanly - me even when Ross.

4. She was also secretary to Otto Wagener, writing his correspondence, much of it to Germany's major industrialists of the era, establishing contacts on behalf of the Party. Wagener was [a friend of] Magda Goebbels, and was present during Hitler's early meetings with her. Hitler was capt by her beauty, urged her to marry [someone] and brought her together with Goebbels so that she would be near him more frequently. Seeing Magda Goebbels, he had commented to Wagener that she stirred in him feelings he had thought had died with Geli Raubal.

5. Fr. Schroeder had spoken as recently as 8.9.71 [at Pictau's Stambury party, attended by v. Below, Kueppers, Frau Ohrensorge, Engel etc.] to Emil Maurice, and Maurice on this occasion related to her everything he knew about Hitler and Geli Raubal. Maurice had been her secret Verlobte and was dismissed by Hitler without pay when this fact came to his attention - for which Maurice successfully verdrangt Hitler before 1933 before the

Minchens Arbeitsgericht; by 1933 he had fortunately arranged with Hitler - otherwise would Maurice Hitler would probably have put an end to him. Geli told Maurice of the terrible position she was in, virtually in chains, living in Hitler's apartment, forbidden to have any boyfriends and advised to suit an extent by Marie Helbig that she claimed Helbig had gone down on bended knees in front of her. Helbig gained the impression that the Verhältnisse was purely platonic still at the time of the suicide.

6. From Writter had related to her how Eva Braun had come into contact with Hitler, slipping billets dore into his pockets - one of which, said from Writter [might have] caused the Geli suicide when it was found by her. Eva says Helbig was very charming and tried very hard to win Helbig. In April 1945 when she came to Berlin to finish her days with Hitler she explained to Helbig:

7. "Ich verdamme ihm alles Schlimme in diesem Leben und das einzige was ich für ihn tun kann ist das es bei ihm bleibt."

7. Maurice also told me of the trips he made with Hitler by car to Berlin 1920 to 1935 etc; Hitler brought Maurice, "Mädchen zu organisieren". Es wurde dann der ganze Abend genossen - sie waren nicht etwa Strassenmädchen aber auch nicht ganz ausständige Typen. Am Schluss des Abends fragte Hitler, "Hast du was für mich gegeben?" Maurice: selbstverständlich nicht.

10.9.1971

Hille: "Ich habe meine 20 RM gegeben."

8. 1942? Hille to Martin Bormann: "Halten Sie mir die Gantenke vom Heib"; hat Fr. Schwäbe selbst anwesend gehabt. Bormann istal, lebenslustig.
9. Hille's school years. Teacher kept a report book in which the recent misdemeanours of pupils were recorded. One the teacher unconsciously thumbed this report, etc: "Hille ist ein Bösewicht, er spiegelt mit dem Sonnenlicht."  
The children all chucked their at the teacher when he entered the class room next day.
10. A further Auffzeichnung by Fr. Schwäbe described the train to Westphale, 9.5.1940. The train left the FHQs, destination unknown, into the dusk, heading generally north-west; the adjutants knew where they were heading but Schumann only hinted to the secretaries etc that they were going to Norway, etc: "Haben Sie alle sick-sick mitgebracht (ein anti-Seelekrankheitsmittel)" oder "Sie werden ein schönes --- fell juniedrungen können." After some hours the train stopped in the darkness at a station from which the Bahnhofsschilder had been removed. The train changed direction. Along the new stretch, all the station names had been removed and replaced by gelber militärischen Schildern. In the early hours, they transferred to a column of cars, driving through beautiful <sup>dann</sup> scenery until they reached a former Regimentigefuchtssternel - in Münsterhofel,

although they did not know it. In the air it was a real "fogelparade" [presumably they arrived as the dawn chorus was just beginning.] The success of the birds was joined by less natural sounds, the rattle of heavy gunfire all at once. Stikly announced, "Mein Stemen, <sup>Wasser grass</sup> sind an der Westfront. Die Westoffensive hat <sup>Wasser</sup>soeben begonnen."

11. She had also written emi Anfänger about the "Hrad-schmi" - presumably Stikly on 15-16.3.1939; but she did not get round to letting me read it. The Anfänger are stored in her Kommode at home; I urged her to consider their publication.
12. Prof. Schwäbe repeated her earliest interview description of the story she told Stikly in summer 1938 - "es gibt zwei Möglichkeiten."
13. Prof. Schwäbe regretted that she is too "feige" to stand up for the Speer-Erinnerungen, as she finds them magnificent, and cannot believe any but Speer was involved in writing them. -