

## AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, Dr. Rudolf KASZNER, wish to make the following statement, in addition to my affidavit (for further personal data see this affidavit), submitted to IKT Trial under Document No. 2806 PS (USA 342), concerning former SS Standartenfuhrer Kurt BECKER:

As a result of the negotiations carried out in 1944-45, between the undersigned, as representative of the Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee, chief of the Illegal Jewish Rescuing Committee in Budapest, and Kurt Becker, the lives of tens of thousands of Jews and inmates of concentration camps could be saved. Practically the negotiations between Kurt Becker and myself, although initiated and carried out on financial and economic grounds, resulted in the most serious and effective attempt to interfere with the Nazi program of total annihilation of the Jews, at German hands, as prescribed by Hitler. There can be no doubt about it that Becker belongs to the very few SS-leaders having the courage to oppose the program of annihilation and trying to rescue human lives.

In concreto, in connection with my negotiations with Becker the following results were achieved:

(1) 1585 Hungarian Jews and Jewish refugees from Hungary were assembled in Budapest and taken, through Bergen-Belsen, to Switzerland, in two groups, on 31 August and 6 December 1944. It was the first time the Germans released an organized group of Jews from their hands during the war.

(2) After an intervention of Becker with Himmler the latter gave a general order, in the fall of 1944, forbidding further annihilation of Jews. Although this order was partly sabotaged by Kaltenbrunner, Eichmann and other officials of the RSHA, many of the remnants of these coming under this order owed their survival to the issuing of this order.

(3) About 75 Jews hidden in Bratislava were assembled and taken to Switzerland following an agreement between me and Becker (April 1945).

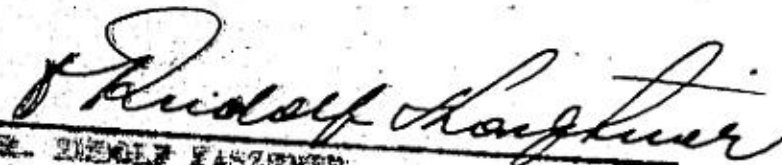
(4) Following Becker's intervention, about 65,000 Jews from the Budapest ghetto were neither deported nor exterminated in the months of November, December and January 1944-45, and this despite the Hungarian puppet government's planning and deciding the annihilation of the inmates of this ghetto.

(2) In the last phase of the war Becker strove with Himmler to counteract the efforts of the radical group of higher SS-leaders, who tried to achieve the removal or extermination of the remnants of the inmates of concentration camps, by having these inmates handed over to the Allied Armies thus avoiding bloody fighting around these camps.

I personally witnessed Becker's efforts, resulting in the capitulation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp days before the arrival of the Allied Armies. In view of the inhuman conditions we found in this camp, on 11 April 1945, this capitulation was the only possible means of shortening the sufferings of about 55,000 inmates, speeding their liberation. I witnessed the issuing of a similar order to the commanders of the concentration camps of Neuengamme near Hamburg (about 12,000 persons) and Theresienstadt (about 30,000 Jews).

(3) Considering prevailing documents and other testimonies, it may be admitted that it was Becker who prevented the carrying out of the orders issued by Kaltenbrunner aiming at the annihilation, at the last minute, of the inmates of the Buchenwald concentration camp (about 33,000 persons, mainly political prisoners, of many nationalities), and Flossenbürg (about 17,000 per-

Having been in personal contact with Becker, from June 1944 until the middle of April 1945, I would like to emphasize, on the basis of personal observations, that Becker did everything within the realm of his possibilities and position to save innocent human lives from the blind fury of killing of the Nazi leaders. Therefore, even if the form and basis of our negotiations may be highly objectionable, I did not doubt for one moment the good intentions of Kurt Becker and in my opinion he is deserving, when his case is judged by Allied or German authorities, of the fullest possible consideration. I make this statement not only in my name, but also on behalf of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish World Congress.

  
DR. ENGEL KASZNER  
Official of the Jewish Agency, Geneva  
Former Chairman of the Zionist Organization  
in Hungary (1943-1945)

Before me, BENNO H. SELOKIN, Jr., AAO # B-433012, a U.S. Civilian, appeared  
Dr. Rudolf KASZNER, to me known who in my presence signed the above affidavit  
in the English language, consisting of two pages, and swore that same was  
true.

Nuremberg, Germany, 4th day of August 1947

BENNO H. SELOKIN, Jr.  
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