

Unclassified, undated

Canaris and Oster maintained contact with the pope through the former Munich lawyer Dr. Josef Müller, who had been inserted into the *Abwehr*. Müller was introduced to the then Cardinal Secretary of State Pacelli through the intercession of Dean Neuhäusler of the Munich Cathedral Chapter, and married by the latter in the Crypt of St. Peter in Rome. In this way he had, as he says, acquired a certain prestige in Vatican circles, since this event represented a considerable exception [to the rules]. Müller had then developed a certain personal relationship with Pacelli through numerous meetings, which had also led to political discussions. Pacelli had always made himself especially accessible and helpful to Müller.

Müller then established a close relationship with the Jesuit priest Leiber, Private Secretary to the Pope, especially during the war, but in fact already in the autumn of 1939. From Leiber he obtained a variety of information concerning the attitudes of the pope and the enemy forces. He also had discussions with him concerning possible opportunities for a peace, wherein Leiber gave him to understand that a regime change in Germany was a precondition for the conclusion of a peace. Through Leiber, Müller established contacts with English and American circles, especially with the American Taylor, who paid a visit to the Vatican in 1939; with an American bishop in the Vatican, with England through the English Ambassador to the Vatican Osborne, and other connections established through mediators. Müller characteristically declared:

"I believe I recall that during these discussions the name of Beck was mentioned by the Vatican."

Müller, an unusually clever man of the Jesuit school, has always attempted to represent his activity in previous interrogations in such a way that he was merely trying to glean the best possible military intelligence from Vatican sources for the Reich. From his statements, along with those of Oster, Canaris and Dohnanyi, as well as the confiscated documentary materials, it appears with a high likelihood that Müller, like Gisevius, spoke out of both sides of his mouth, and was also actively involved in the Opposition.