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HELD IN SMUGGLING OF METAL TO NAZIS

Dr. F. A. Kertess Indicted With
Others in Sending of Rare
Strategic Materials

Transportation to Germany of rare strategic metals sorely needed for making ersatz products was charged in Federal indictments yesterday to Dr. Ferdinand A. Kertess, his Chemical Marketing Company, Inc., and others. United States Attorney Mathias F. Correa said the group had succeeded in getting \$14,000 worth of palladium, iridium and rhodium into Nazi hands.

Recalling that Kertess had been denounced two years ago, in a Dies committee "white paper," as a member of a Nazi espionage ring, Mr. Correa said he was the author of a plan "for the organization of German industry in America after the war." In drawing up this plan, the prosecutor charged, Dr. Kertess had conferred with German consular officials and pro-Nazi business men here.

Two specific instances of the export of the metals were alleged in the indictments that were opened yesterday. One was the smuggling of thirty-five ounces of rhodium (\$165 an ounce) to Bilbao, Spain, in March of 1941, aboard the Magallanes. That was alleged to have been done by Mrs. Betty Mueller, wife of a former Brooklyn office building janitor, who has returned to her native Germany. She is a defendant, accused of having delivered the metals to a German agent.

The other instance described was the export of 153.67 ounces of palladium (\$28 an ounce), fifteen ounces of iridium (\$190 an ounce) and fifteen ounces of rhodium to Germany via Colombia in 1940. This shipment was made under export license, Mr. Correa said, but the license failed to specify the actual and ultimate purchasers of the metals. The license named Theodore C. Barth of Cali, Colombia, as purchaser. Barth was made a defendant yesterday, but the real recipient of the metals was alleged to be the Deutsche Gold und Silber Scheidestalt, a German organization and one of the largest chemical and metallurgical concerns in the world. This concern also was named a defendant.

Other defendants were Dr. Herbert Lickfett of Stockholm, Sweden, and G. Siebert G. m. b. H. and Leukon A. G., affiliates of the big German concern. Mr. Correa said Dr. Lickfett played a part in the making of arrangements for the purchases and shipping of the needed metals.

Mr. Correa described Dr. Kertess as a native of Frankfort, Germany, who first came to the United States in 1923. In 1940 he was naturalized in Westchester County. Dr. Kertess, it was said, was a backer of Friedrich Ernst Auhagen's American Fellowship Forum.

Dr. Kertess, the only individual defendant available for prosecution here, pleaded not guilty yesterday and was freed in bail of \$7,500 by Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind.

