“Hitler’s authorization for euthanasia.” Reprinted at the *Harvard Law School Library Nuremberg Trials Project: A Digital Document Collection*. Last accessed August 22, 2015. [http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/php/pflip.php?caseid=HLSL\_NMT01&docnum=2492&numpages=1&startpage=1&title=Order+to+Bouhler+and+Dr.+[Karl]+Brandt+to+increase+the+authority+of+physicians+to+perform+euthanasia.&color\_setting=C](http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/php/pflip.php?caseid=HLSL_NMT01&docnum=2492&numpages=1&startpage=1&title=Order+to+Bouhler+and+Dr.+%5bKarl%5d+Brandt+to+increase+the+authority+of+physicians+to+perform+euthanasia.&color_setting=C).

*As seen in the exhibition, Hitler provided Philipp Bouhler, a senior party official and chief of the Führer’s chancellery, and Karl Brandt, one of his physicians, with authorization to approve euthanasia. This authorization was not granted until October 1939, but it was backdated to coincide with the start of the war.*

Berlin 1 Sept 1939

Reichslieter Bouhler and

Dr. Brandt, M.D.

are charged with the responsibility of enlarging the authority of certain physicians to be designated by name in such a manner that persons who, according to human judgment, are incurable can, upon a most careful diagnosis of their condition of sickness, be accorded a mercy death.

[signed] A. Hitler

\* \* \*

“Führer Decree on Suspending the Pledge to Secrecy.” Reprinted at the *Harvard Law School Library Nuremberg Trials Project: A Digital Document Collection*. Last accessed August 22, 2015.[http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/php/pflip.php?caseid=HLSL\_NMT01&docnum=1104&numpages=3&startpage=1&title=Subject:+Fuehrer+Decree+on+Suspending+the+Pledge+to+Secrecy+in+special+cas[es]..&color\_setting=C](http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/php/pflip.php?caseid=HLSL_NMT01&docnum=1104&numpages=3&startpage=1&title=Subject:+Fuehrer+Decree+on+Suspending+the+Pledge+to+Secrecy+in+special+cas%5bes%5d..&color_setting=C).

*This second decree was issued by Hitler in December 1942 and forwarded to physicians by Leonardo Conti, the Reich Health Leader, in early January 1943.*

I not only relieve physicians, medical practitioners and dentists of their pledge to secrecy toward my Commissioner-General Professor Dr. med. Karl BRANDT, but I place upon them the binding obligation to advise him – for my own information – immediately after a final diagnosis has established a serious disease, or a disease of ill-boding character, with a personality holding a leading position or a position of responsibility in the State, the Party, the Wehrmacht, in Industry, and so forth.

Headquarters, 23 December 1942

[signed] Adolf Hitler