

DOENITZ' ACCESSION VIEWED AS A BLIND

Capital Lays His Designation to General Ignorance of His Allegiance to Party

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 1—If Adolf Hitler really designated Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz his successor, military men here believe, he did so for the following reasons:

1. Doenitz is a Nazi supporter who could be counted on to keep German resistance going if possible.

2. But he is not associated in the Allies' minds with German atrocities and the extreme policies of the Nazi party. Therefore, Hitler probably figured that he might be able to get better treatment from the Allies when the hour of surrender came.

3. He is immensely popular with the German people.

There was a disposition here tonight to look for continued organized resistance whose core would now be centered in the Baltic and North Sea port areas. Those places are the homes of the German Navy and especially of the U-boat fleet that Doenitz commanded from 1936 until he succeeded Grand Admiral Erich

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Hitler's death, if the report is true, should come with the complete collapse of his philosophy. Incidentally, it will save the Allies a lot of worry about dealing with a captured Fuehrer."

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Raeder as Commander in Chief of the navy in 1943.

There may be some continued resistance in the southern pocket, but there are well placed officials who now say that there is no national redoubt area and never has been.

In proportion to the total strength of the services, there have been far more Nazi party members among German Navy officers than among Army officers. The reason appears to be this: After the First World War and the scuttling of the German Fleet at Scapa Flow, German navy men developed an inferiority complex. The rise of the Nazi party and its doctrines of world domination appealed to them even more strongly than to their brothers of the army.

The reports of Hitler's death caused a stir in Congress. Skepticism mingled with questioning whether it would make any difference in the final mop-up of German resistance.

Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Democrat, of Colorado, acting chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, said: "I hope it's so, but I would kind of like to have a look at the body before I believe it." Whether it makes any difference, Mr. Johnson said, depends not only on what attitude Doenitz takes but on what control he can exercise. "I doubt if it makes any difference," he added.

Senator Robert A. Taft, Republican, of Ohio, declared that it was "significant and interesting" that

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