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Bernard M. Baruch

New York City

October 15, 1957

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Interview with Bernard M. Baruch, 597 Madison Ave, New York City, Oct 15, 1957, by Forrest C. Pogue.

The bulk of this interview is on tape (I will later transcribe it). After the interview when I was in the outer office reading some of the handwritten Marshall correspondence, Mr. Baruch came in a couple of times.

Next day when I was looking at the records again, he came in for a chat.

Mr. Baruch is remarkable vigorous for his 86 or 87 years. He tends to be discursive in his conversation and to emphasize his own role. Yet he is fair enough to indicate that his intervention may not have been decisive. He is fond of Gen Marshall, but obviously does not hold him in awe. I gather that his hero is President Wilson.

Mr. Baruch had been at a dinner the evening before and sat next to Gromyko. He said Gromyko had a good brain and even some sense of humor. He said that he got along with him by speaking very forthright to him. Once, he said, he indicated that something G. said was "a lot of crap." "Crap, crap", G. asked his interpreter, "what is that."

Mr. B. appears to be proud of his reputation as a Wall Street buccaneer. He said that after I finished and was putting the machine in its case: "tell you found me when I didn't have my horns and tail on. Sometimes I scare people."

At the point where he had me turn off the machine, he said that the Administration had failed to remember that it had to have strength to back its policy--that they were more interested in balancing the budget than in making the country strong.

He spoke once or twice of his insistence that they get strong and be strong.

#### QUESTIONS FOR MR. BARUCH

1. What do you consider to be General Marshall's outstanding characteristics? What do you feel were his greatest contributions to his country and the world?

(You have touched on these things in the speech you gave at V. M. I. in 1951, but it is not certain that a record has been kept of that. In order to have a similar statement in your voice for the record, I wonder if you would restate some of those things or others which may occur to you. You may wish to record a paragraph or two from the speech).

2. General Marshall has mentioned on several occasions things which you put through for him. He mentioned that shortly before the fall of France, he asked if you could help him change the attitude of the Senate committees toward the war effort and if you could get some large appropriations for the Army. He said that you then got in touch with Senator Byrnes and that the two of you arranged a meeting with a number of senators.

It would be helpful if you could give me more details on this. He also mentioned some other occasions on which you were of great help. I would be delighted if you would do some of those.

3. I note that in the Pershing file in the Library of Congress, there are a number of letters from you to General Pershing and many of them mention General Marshall. One of them is an invitation in 1923 for the two of them to come hunting with you. As I recall General Marshall visited you in South Carolina during the war. Do you have any anecdotes about any of these visits which might be helpful to a biographer of General Marshall?

4. Did you have any part in the appointment of General Marshall as Chief of Staff or any knowledge of the background of the appointment?

5. Would you contrast General Pershing and General Marshall as commanders and indicate the part which General Pershing played in General Marshall's rise?

6. General Marshall said that you pressed him to answer McCarthy but that he decided not to do so. Do you feel that Senator McCarthy was speaking largely for himself or was there a feeling that General Marshall's reputation had to be destroyed before they could get at the Administration?

7. There are naturally many things I would like to ask, but I don't want to encroach on your time. There may be comments you would like to make about General Marshall generally or about some of the controversies which affect him, such as the Pearl Harbor affair, his debates with the British over Cross-Channel strategy, the removal of General MacArthur, the Marshall Plan, and many other matters. However it is likely that you will cover a number of these matters in your autobiography and I will see the book before this biography is written.