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TO : Mr. William L. Langer

DATE: 31 May 1945

FROM : Franz Neumann FN

SUBJECT: Outline of Project - Principal Nazi Organizations Involved in War Crimes (R & A 3113)

Attached is a copy of the outline prepared in the Central European Section and delivered this afternoon to Lt. James Donovan, General Counsel's Office.

Attachment

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31 May 1945 | OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch | SECRET

R & A No. 3113

OUTLINE OF PROJECT

PRINCIPAL NAZI ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN WAR CRIMES

I. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project is to establish the criminal responsibility of such organizations and institutions as the Nazi Party, the Reich Government, and the Armed Forces (Wehrmacht) for the commission of specific crimes. The group approach (as opposed to the consideration of isolated persons involved) is based on the assumption that the indictment of such organizations or their agencies may expedite the prosecution of war criminals. This procedure may also help in establishing evidence that Nazi war crimes are not purely acts of individuals committed in violation of existing laws but are the manifestations of an over-all plan which relied, by purpose or by implication, on the existence of specific organizations as instruments essential or incidental to the execution of this plan.

The project as defined renders it unnecessary to compile a case-book of Nazi crimes perpetrated by groups or individuals. The nature and scope of the crimes which have been committed by the Nazis are adequately covered by the specific categories of charges listed below. Nor does the project require an analysis of all Nazi organizations for the purpose of evaluating the nature of all their functions. Only those organizations, or parts thereof, are to be analyzed which by virtue of their jurisdiction bear a responsibility for the perpetration of war crimes falling into one or several of the categories of charges listed below.

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Proof, documentary or otherwise, will have to be furnished with respect to the following counts:

A. That the organizations, or parts thereof, have been established for the specific, although not necessarily exclusive, purpose of perpetrating or helping in the perpetration of crimes, e.g. SS, Main Economic and Administrative Office, Office Group D: Operation and Administration of Concentration Camps;

B. That by the nature of their functions the organizations, or parts thereof, have become instrumental in the perpetration of crimes, e.g. the Organization Todt;

C. That by virtue of their functions the organizations, or parts thereof, have prepared, inaugurated, facilitated, or justified and upheld the perpetration of crimes, e.g. the Propaganda Ministry, the Office of the Four Year Plan, the People's Court, and other agencies engaged in policy-making, propaganda, legislation, and adjudication.

II. THE DEFENDANTS

It has been suggested that the defendants comprise two categories:

1. Individuals to be selected, such as Hitler, Goering, and others;
2. Organizations such as the SS and Gestapo, which are so implicated in the common enterprise and the overt acts to be charged that they are deemed therefore to share in the criminal liability.

The defendant organizations may be official or unofficial. They may be tried on a group representation basis; that is to say, any such organization may be charged with criminal acts or with complicity therein by producing before the

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tribunal and putting on trial such of their number as the tribunal may determine to be fairly representative of the organization in question.

This project deals with the second category of defendants and their leaderships at any given time while crimes were committed, thus providing a proper basis for the selection of the individual defendants.

A. Selection of organizations

The selection of Nazi organizations will be made, wherever possible, both according to function and according to charge.

1. Selection according to function

The term "Nazi organization" comprises a multitude of groups and agencies engaged in a variety of activities, not all of which are related to war crimes or crimes as such. Furthermore, individual Nazi organizations include a large number of functionaries and members in varying positions of responsibility, some of them in no position of responsibility whatever. A wholesale indictment of some Nazi organizations, e.g., of the NSDAP itself, would be impractical. It would insufficiently identify the immediate responsibility of certain agencies and offices within the respective Nazi organizations for the commission of special crimes, according to their area of jurisdiction, e.g. the Gestapo within the Reichssicherheitshauptamt. It would likewise overlook the specific degree of responsibility exercised by functional groups and agencies according to their hierarchical status within the organization, e.g. the Gauleiter within the Party. It is necessary, therefore, to evaluate the responsibility of organizations, such as the NSDAP, the

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Government, the Armed Forces, or even of such smaller organizations as the SS, the Police, etc., through an analysis of the specific responsibility of their component subdivisions for the crimes. A procedure of this sort would not only help allocate specific crimes to specific agencies; it would also facilitate the establishment of a scale of responsibility (and punishment) according to the functional proximity to the crime in question.

2. Selection according to charge

In order to clarify further what Nazi organizations shall be defendants, it is necessary to establish the relation of individual organizations, agencies or parts thereof to specific categories of charges. These charges are:

(1) That at some time prior to 1 September 1939 the defendants entered into a common plan or enterprise aimed at the establishment of complete German domination of Europe and eventually the world, which plan or enterprise included or intended, or was reasonably calculated to involve the use of, unlawful means for its accomplishment, including the commission of atrocities and other crimes listed below;

(2) That on or about 1 September 1939, and at various times thereafter, the defendants launched illegal wars of aggression;

(3) That in the course of conducting such wars the defendants violated international law, the laws,

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rules, and customs of war, or the law of the sea.

(4) That before or after such wars of aggression, and during their continuance, the defendants instigated, committed, or took a consenting part in atrocities and other crimes which were in violation of international law or treaties, or the laws of Germany or one or more of its allies, co-belligerents, or satellites;

(5) That the atrocities and other crimes mentioned above were committed pursuant to, or in the course of and as a chosen means for, executing a common criminal plan or enterprise among the defendants.

B. Allocation of responsibility

In order to classify an organization as a defendant, proof must be furnished that the organization, or parts thereof, was implicated in the perpetration of crimes covered by one or several of the charges.

CHARGE I: Plot for World Domination

The outline of this count is being prepared separately. Charge I is leveled at all organizations involved in the formulation of an over-all plan which, eventually, led to the (pre-meditated) commission of crimes. Acts pertinent to this category of charges thus may not have been criminal per se but comprise all those used in preparation, furtherance, and execution of the criminal plan, including but not limited to:

(1) The defendants' internal and external policies;

(2) Their ideological, organizational, and material preparations for the commission of the atrocities and other crimes charged against them, and

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(3) The pre-war (pre- 1 September 1939) atrocities and other crimes, and those committed by the defendants against their fellow nationals, neutrals, stateless persons, and nationals of the United Nations.

Organizations to be charged with the formulation of the over-all plan are to be found within the Party, the Government, and the Armed Forces, or in official or unofficial collaboration with all or some of the three pillars of the Nazi system. They include the following offices and organizations.

On the Party Level

The Führer	Reichsleiter, Gauleiter, and Reichdienststellenleiter (Hauptamtsleiter and Amtsleiter)
Specific Party offices	Delegate of the Führer for Indoctrination Reich Propaganda Leader Reich Leader for the Press Reich Press Chief Foreign Political Office Party Colonial Office, Foreign Organization
Party Formations	S.S. (Reich Main Offices, especially Reichsicherheitshauptamt, Main Section Leaders and Higher SS and Police Leaders.) S.A. (Supreme SA Command, Main Group and Group Leader Hitler Youth (Reichsleadership) N.S. Motor Corps and Area Leaders (Reichsleadership) N.S. Women's League (Reichsleadership) N.S. Students' League " N.S. University Teachers' League
Party Affiliates, e.g.	German Labor Front N.S. Professional Leagues (Physicians, Teachers, Lawyers, etc.)
Other Party related organizations	Reich Labor Service N.S. Flying Corps Folk League for Germans Abroad German Foreign Institute Bi- and inter- national associations and institutes.

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On the Government Level

Head of State

Chanceries — Reichskanzlei, Praesidialkanzlei

Secret Cabinet Council

Reich Cabinet

Reich Ministries — Foreign Office (Division of Culture and Politics
Justice
Economics
Interior (including Police, i.e. Order, Security and Secret State Police)
Finance
Labor
Education
Food and Agriculture
Propaganda
Ecclesiastical Affairs
Air

Office of the Four Year Plan and Commissioners appointed thereunder

The Reichstag

On the Military Level

Supreme Commander

Supreme Command of the Armed Forces (OKW) — Office of the Abwehr
Chief Operations Staff

High Command of the Army (OKH)

High Command of the Navy (OKM)

High Command of the Air Force (OKL)

Proof is to be furnished that these organizations have been responsible for the establishment and/or execution of one or several of the following policies.

a. Indoctrination of Germans, at home and abroad, with Nazi ideology;

b. Co-ordination of political, professional, and economic

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activities inside Germany for the purpose of establishing the monopoly of the Nazi Party in all spheres of public and private life;

c. Abrogation or minimization of civil liberties, constitutional rights, due process of law, and parliamentary procedures;

d. Infiltration into non-German organizations and agencies and foreign countries for the purpose of propaganda, espionage, sabotage, and subversion;

e. Organization of human and economic resources for the purpose of preparing and waging aggressive wars against other nations.

CHARGE II: Launching of Illegal Wars or Aggression and Violation of International Treaties

The charge is more or less self-explanatory. It includes the wars waged by Germany against Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, France, Yugoslavia, Greece, and USSR. Likewise included are aggressive actions against Germany's former allies, e.g. Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Finland, and Italy. This count is not to be prepared by OSS. We have only to analyze the agencies and their leaders involved in this count. Agencies covered by these charges include:

On the Party Level

The Führer

The Reichsleiter and Gauleiter

The Press and Propaganda Offices of the Party

The Foreign Organization

The General and Armed S.S.

The N.S. Motor Corps (N.S.K.K.)

The N.S. Flying Corps (N.S.F.K.)

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The Hitler Youth (H.J.)

The Reich Labor Service (RAD)

The Organization Todt (O.T.)

On the Governmental Level

The Head of State

The Secret Cabinet Council

The Reich Cabinet

The Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Realm

The Office of the Four Year Plan

The Reich Commissioners

The Foreign Office

The Reich War Ministry

The Reich Air Ministry

The Reichstag

On the Military Level

The Supreme Commander

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces

The High Command of the Army

The High Command of the Navy

The High Command of the Air Force

The Field Commanders, i.e. the commanders of Army Groups, Armies, Fleets and Air Fleets

The Commands of all auxiliary forces attached to one or several branches of the the three services.

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Proof has to be established to the effect (1) that these organizations, agencies, or functional groups thereof have been responsible for the actual preparation, initiation, and execution of aggressive actions, which introduced a state of war between Germany on the one side and the nation under attack and its allies on the other, and (2) that the launching of such wars was done

a. in violation of treaties and conventions to which the German State was a party;

b. in violation of any applicable international law;

c. as part of the over-all plan to dominate the world.

CHARGE III: Violation of International Rules of Warfare

This charge may be divided into two categories:

a. Crimes committed in the course of military operations;

b. Crimes committed in the planning and execution of Nazi occupation policies.

A. Crimes committed in the course of military operations

It is not the responsibility of this agency to establish what constitutes a violation of the Hague or Geneva Conventions or of the Rules of Sea Warfare. We shall assume that such violations have been committed; outstanding examples of them will be supplied us by the War Crimes Office. We shall classify the types of crimes in order to assign responsibility for them to the various organizations and in order to fit them into the pattern of Charge I.

It will be safe for us to assume that the following types of crimes have been committed:

a. Shooting of hostages;

b. Shooting of commandos and paratroopers, on which evidence has already been collected;

c. Maltreatment of Allied prisoners of war, involving:

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1. starvation;

2. humiliation;

3. killing (lynching);

4. illegal use of prisoners of war.

d. Collective reprisals against, or maltreatment of, civilian populations;

e. Willful spoliation or destruction of property;

f. Bombing of open cities, and of targets exempt from attack by law or agreement, such as hospital trains;

g. Other atrocities committed beyond the limits of measures recognized as necessary or traditional in the prosecution of the war, outside combat areas, or after declared cessation of military resistance (e.g., destruction of Rotterdam).

We may have to enlarge these categories when the War Crimes Office sets forth what it considers a violation of the rules of warfare. The types sketched above will, however, be adequate for tracing the chain of responsibility for most such crimes. The agencies considered responsible include:

On the Party level

The Führer

The Party Press and Propaganda Offices

The Gauleiter in their capacity as organizers of home shock troops, including the Volkssturm

The SA

The SS — The General SS and the Armed SS, and specifically the Security Service (in the Reichssicherheitshauptamt), which includes the Secret State Police

The Motor Corps (NSKK)

The Hitler Youth (HJ)

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On the Government level

The Head of State

The Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Realm

The Foreign Office

The Ministry of the Interior, including the various branches of the Police

The Propaganda Ministry

The Air Ministry

On the military level

The Supreme Commander

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces

The High Command of the Army (OKH)

The High Command of the Navy (OKM)

The General Armed Forces Officer, specifically the Inspector General for PW's and the Guidance Staff.

The High Command of the Air Force (OKL)

Field Commanders, including the Commanders of Army Groups, Armies, Fleets, and Air Fleets

Commanders of special auxiliary forces -- e.g., Field Gendarmerie.

Proof must be established that in the course of conducting their campaigns these organizations and agencies authorized or executed the acts which violated international law; the laws, rules, and customs of war; or the law of the sea.

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B. Crimes Committed in the Planning and Execution of Nazi Occupation Policies

We are able, then, at a fairly early stage, to present the case against the Nazi organization and its leaders for the planning and the execution of crimes committed in the application of their occupation policies.

1. Measures pertinent to this charge include:

Planning and Preparation

a. Employment of divisive tactics openly and surreptitiously in foreign countries, such as promoting ethnic, religious, and political disputes and differences, for the purpose of opening the door to Nazi influence on national and local policy and of weakening or destroying resistance to intended military and political encroachments.

b. Establishment and utilization of groups with divided loyalties and of outright German and native fifth columns abroad for the above purposes.

c. Employment of bribery, corruption, and false and subversive propaganda in such countries.

d. Entering into treaties without intent to observe them and thereafter violating them in furtherance of an over-all plan of conquest and domination.

e. Infiltration of spies and saboteurs into such countries to supplement threats of invasions and aggressive wars.

f. Carrying out the foregoing in violation of international law and the laws of the countries concerned.

g. Increasing Germany's own war potential and reducing the defensive capacity of other nations by creating monopolistic and other unlawful

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schemes and devices in furtherance of Germany's general plan of European domination.

Agencies considered responsible for the planning and preparation of occupation policies have been listed largely under CHARGE I. They include specifically:

On the Party Level

The Reichsdienststellen (The Reich Party Officers)
- Party Office for Foreign Policy
- Party Office for Indoctrination
- Party Offices for Press and Propaganda
- Party Office for Folkdom

The Foreign Organization

The SS
- Staff HQ of the Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of "Folkdom"
- Office for Intelligence Abroad within the Reich Main Security Office
- Central Bureau for Protective Measures for Non-Germans
- Bureau for Bi-National and International Associations and Institutions
- Bureau for the Four Year Plan

The NS Motor Corps

The League for Germans Abroad (VDA)

The German Foreign Institute

On the Government Level

Reich Ministries
- Occupied Territories
- Interior (Division I: Annexed and Occupied Territories; and Police)
- Foreign Office (Division for Cultural Policy)

Office of the Four Year Plan

On the Military Level

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces (ØKW)

The High Command of the Army

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The High Command of the Navy

The High Command of the Air Force

Proof is to be established that those organizations or agencies which authorized the above atrocities and other crimes in so doing exercized a responsibility fully within the limits of their jurisdiction and as a result of an overall policy which directed or envisaged their commission.

2. Execution

In analyzing the execution of occupation policies the following basic distinction must be made:

a. USSR: Germany did not consider itself bound by international law in its warfare with the Soviet Union (references will be cited).

b. Czechoslovakia and Poland: Germany asserted that these countries had ceased to exist as states.

c. France: Germany was bound by the terms of the Armistice agreement.

d. All Others: Germany asserted that it abided by international law.

We must consider first the territorial transactions whichtook place after 1 September 1939, namely:

a. the incorporation of Luxemburg, Eupen, Malmedy, and Moresnet.

b. the incorporation of Lower Styria and Upper Carinthia.

c. the incorporation of Alsace-Lorraine.

d. the incorporation of Polish territories.

The official German statements and decrees will be quoted proving that the Germans themselves were conscious of the illegality of their actions. This has already been done in the R & A 2500 series. In these we stated the responsibility

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a. of the planners

b. of the major executors of the policy

These two groups appear to include:

The Ministerial Council for Defense of the Reich

The Reich Ministry of the Interior

The Reich Ministry for the Eastern Occupied Territories

The Foreign Office

The Office of the Four Year Plan

The Civil Commissioners

The Higher SS and Police Leaders

The OKW, OKH and OKL

The Reich Party Office for Foreign Policy

The Gauleiter Foreign Organization of the Party

Other agencies instrumental in carrying the orders of the above

All relevant documents are in our possession.

We must then consider the policies proper. It would be virtually impossible to rewrite our R & A 2500 series. But we can simplify matters if we confine ourselves to major crimes which transcend territorial distribution. They are:

1. The deportation of civilian labor. Under this category we shall examine:

a. The legal bases

b. The organizations involved:

The Four Year Plan Office

The Commissioner General for Labor Supply

The Speer Ministry (after 1943)

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The German Labor Front

The Reich Labor Service

The SS Plant Brigades

The NS Motor Corps

The VA (camp guards)

The Organization Todt

The Technical Emergency Corps

etc.

This will be illustrated by examples. (Compare our study which we did for MO in 1943)

2. The extermination of the Jews. Under this we shall look into:

   a. The legislation

   b. The question of what happened to the Jewish population

   c. The agencies responsible:

      The SS

      The Four Year Plan

      The Rosenberg Ministry

      The Reich Ministry of the Interior

      etc.

3. The extermination of other groups, such as the Polish intelligensia.

4. The spoliation of property. Again we shall examine:

   a. The legal basis

   b. The agencies involved:

      The Four Year Plan (Haupttrauhandstelle Ost)

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The OKW (War Economy and Armament Office)

The Ministry of Economics

The Speer Ministry

The Minister for Food and Agriculture and the Food Estate

The Einsatzstab Rosenburg

The Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of German Peopledom (and the corresponding office in the Party)

The Race and Settlement Office in the SS

The Self Government of German Industry

On the above we possess plenty of documents, as well as the very comprehensive study "Economic and Financial Controls in Occupied Europe." We shall indicate also certain major beneficiaries of Germanization.

5. The operation of concentration camps for foreign nationals inside and outside of Germany. Under this there will be discussed:

a. The legal basis

b. The agencies involved:

The SS

The SD

etc.

We should concentrate on these five types of crimes, for which we have ample documentation. If we go beyond them, we may be simply overwhelmed by the volume of material.

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CHARGE IV: Domestic Crimes

Of all the counts, "Violation of domestic Axis since 1933," presents the greatest legal difficulties.

(1) The legal problem: What is domestic German law? The following answers are possible:

a. It is the sum total of all laws valid in Germany on VE day.

b. It is the law of the Weimar Republic, since the Nazis came to power unconditionally.

(2) We shall not recommend what position the United Nations prosecution should assume but merely present the problems.

The first alternative (validity of Nazi laws) is, however, subject to two interpretations:

a. One may interpret Nazi law according to Nazi doctrine.

b. One may interpret Nazi laws according to liberal doctrines.

The difference is considerable. If we interpret Nazi laws according to Nazi ideology, no murder committed in a concentration camp can be considered a crime, since it is the very essence of Nazi political and constitutional theory that acts committed by Party organs are sovereign acts not subject to judicial review.

If we interpret Nazi laws according to liberal conceptions, we find that section 211 of the Penal Code

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makes murder punishable with death, and that that there is no statutory provision authorizing any authority to kill a man without a trial.

We shall thus operate under two assumptions:

a. the invalidity of the Nazi laws; and

b. their validity subject to interpretation according to civilized standards.

(2) The types of crimes committed. In selecting the types of crimes, we must bear in mind that we are indicting Nazis for their violation of German law because we desire to demonstrate that

a. in their struggle for the attainment and and strengthening of their power of Germany they deliberately committed crimes; and

b. that the establishment of total control over Germany was merely a step in their aim to seize control of Europe and possibly of wider areas.

Charge IV thus ties in with Charge I. It requires, however, an analysis of Nazi terrorism and a study of the attitude of the Nazi leaders toward acts of terror committed by subordinates. We shall have to prove -- and we can -- that already in the period prior to 1933 crimes were considered a necessary and desirable weapon in terrorizing the opposition. A study of this has already been "farmed out" and will be ready in about two weeks.

This conception of a basic plan of conquest determines also our selection of domestic crimes for analysis. They are:

a. Establishment of rigid internal control over the government and all its agencies, religion,

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administration of justice, education, news dissemination, finance, commerce, industry, labor, and the professions.

b. Destruction of all political resistance to the Nazi system by terrorizing, confining, and destroying opposition elements.

c. Division of the German citizenry on a racial basis and discriminating against those who were adjudged not to be of German blood.

d. Unlawful expropriation, spoliation, and forced sale for the personal enrichment of Nazis and for the purpose of establishing, solidifying, and maintaining internal control in Nazi hands.

e. Establishment and perpetuation of Nazi control through the total execution of the Führer principle.

f. Destruction of racial minorities and political opponents through underfeeding; sterilization and castration; deprivation of livelihood, clothing, shelter, fuel, sanitation, and medical care; deportation for forced labor; work under inhumane conditions.

(3) Of these charges the following are of special significance:

a. The elimination of the political opposition. Under this we discuss: 1. the statutes and laws against political parties.

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2. The treatment of opponents. The Foreign Nationalities Branch will supply us with exact information on: political opposition leaders killed without trial; the circumstances; the perpetrators (if possible); the witnesses.

b. The elimination of the trade unions. Under this will be considered:

1. The statutes;

2. The seizure of property;

3. The fate of some union leaders (see above on Foreign Nationalities Branch).

c. The Roehm Putsch of 30 June 1934 and the elimination of the conservative opposition (Schleicher, Bredow, Kahr, Klausener). We shall not deal with the Nazi victims proper, but with those others who went down with them. The so-called indemnity law, however, which "justified" the purge, will have to be discussed, and the agencies and leaders responsible for it determined.

d. The prosecution of the churches. Here we have to deal with:

1. The legal enactments.

2. The fate of the Churches and sects

3. The fate of certain personalities.

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Attention will be drawn to the fake trials against members of catholic orders. The Foreign Nationalities Branch will again help out.

e. The anti-Jewish policies: We shall be interested here in:

1. The legal enactments. Special attention will be given to the problems of whether and to what extent a predetermined plan was executed; and to the stages of its execution.

2. The fate of the Jews. SHAEF has collected data on the remaining Jewish population.

(4) Agencies responsible for the commission of crimes under Charge IV include practically the whole Party and Government apparatus, specifically:

On the Party Level

The Führer
The Deputy and Successor's Designate
The Party Chancellery
The Führer's Chancellery
The Reichsleiter
The Gauleiter
The leaders of the Reichsdienstellen (Reich Party office)
The Reich Organization Leader and his staff
The Reich Treasurer and his staff
The Supreme Party Court
The Delegate for Indoctrination
The Reich Propaganda Leader
The Reich Press Chief

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The Reich Leader for the Press
The Chief of Party Censorship
The Reich Leaders of the Professions (e.g. physicians, lawyers, engineers, civil servants, farmers, etc.)
The Main office for Public Health
The Main Office for Public Welfare
The Delegate and Main Office for "Folkdom"
The Office for Racial Policy
The Office for Genealogical Research

The Formations of the Party

The SA and SA Wehrmannschaften (Defense Units)
The SS, i.e., General SS and Armed SS, including the Death's Head Units and the following offices within the SS:

The Main Offices
e.g. the SS Hauptamt
the SS Führungshauptamt
the SS Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt (specifically Office Group D: Operation and Administration of Concentration camps)
the Reichssicherheitshauptamt: specifically, offices III (Deutsche Lebensgebiete), IV Gestapo) and V (Kripo)
the SS Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt
the SS Personalhauptamt
the Persönlicher Stab des Reichsführer's SS, including the Lebensborn Association and the Society "Ahnenerbe".
the Dienststelle of the OGrF Heissmeyer
the Higher SS and Police leaders
the Leaders of Oberabschnitte, Abschnitte, and Standarten.

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	The Hitler Youth (cf. H.J. Streifendienst)
	The NS Motor Corps
	The NS Women's League
	The NS Students' League
	The NS University Teachers' League
Party affiliates	The German Labor Front
	The NS Welfare
	The NS War Victims
	The NS Professional League
Other Party-related organizations	The Reich Labor Service
	The Organization Todt
	The NS Flying Corps

On the Government Level

The Head of State	
The Chancelleries	
The Cabinet	
The Secret Cabinet Council	
The Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Realm	
Reich Ministries	Interior, including the various branches for the Police, the Health Office, etc.
	Armaments and Production
	Finance
	Economics
	Food and Agriculture
	Labor
	Education
	Propaganda, including the Reich Chamber of Culture
	Ecclesiastical Affairs
The Office of the Four Year Plan	
The Reich Commissioner (e.g. for Labor Allocation, Prices, Health, Consolidation of German Folkdom)	
The Reichs Bank	
The Reichstag	
The Supreme Courts	The Reichsgericht
	The Reichverwaltungsgericht
	The Volksgerichtshof (including the highest judges and chief public prosecutors)

On the Military Level

The Supreme Commander	
The NS Guidance Staff	
The Commander of the Home Army and Volkssturm	

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RE AND SOURCES

The above list of organizations and agencies, or parts thereof, is not meant to be complete. Completion and, if necessary, correction of the list will be attempted with the help of documentary sources available. In view of the fact that the object of the research is not the detection of crimes but the exposure of jurisdictional power by virtue of which certain crimes were committed, those sources merit priority which reveal the origin of such power.

Consequently, the following order of validity will be respected:

a. Laws, decrees, edicts, orders, and ordinances issued by German civilian or military authorities, e.g., Hitler's order of 18 October 1942 demanding the shooting of commandos.

b. Statements by German leaders in speeches, broadcasts, books, newspapers, magazines, etc.

c. Official literature published by one of the organizations or agencies involved.

d. Official German documents, not destined for indiscriminate publication, e.g., military, diplomatic, or other manuals, reports, correspondence, memoranda, plans, drafts, etc.

e. Diplomatic and political treaties and agreements, public and secret.

f. Financial, commercial, and trade agreements and data.

g. Biographical records.

h. Statements by official German experts, commentators, and propagandists.

i. PW interrogations.

j. Testimonies of witnesses.

k. Pictorial evidence, e.g., German newsreels.