

Trial Procedure

"Even then the Soviet Government deemed it necessary to immediately put on trial before the special international tribunal and to punish with all severity of criminal law any one of the apprehended leaders of fascist Germany. It believed that it is 'bound to regard the stern punishment of these already exposed leaders of the criminal Hitlerite gang as the urgent duty to countless widows and orphans, near and dear ones of those innocent people who were brutally tortured to death and murdered on instructions of the above criminals'.

"As far back as October 1943 the Moscow declaration set forth the order of the bringing to trial of war criminals in accordance with the place where their crimes were committed. The main war culprits whose crimes are not associated with any one particular geographic locality are to be tried by an international military tribunal. Twenty-four Hitlerite cannibals figure on the first list of war criminals. Their leader--Hitler--is absent from them. For the time he has hidden his hide in some hole, fearing the popular wrath. Goebbels is also not there, but other leaders, companions-in-arms and accomplices of the chief bandit are here: Goering, Hess, Ribbentrop, Ley, Rosenberg, Frank, Neurath, and Seyss-Inquart--the hangmen of Europe, fascist 'ideologists' and 'theoreticians', the authors of delirious racial theories and plans of extermination of peoples, the organizers of the plunder of Europe and of her ruin, the culprits of its present poverty, half-witted fakers and maniacs, slave owners, and cold-blooded murders of absolutely guiltless people.

Industrial Criminals

'This list includes fascist Generals and Admirals, representatives of the Prussian military caste, carriers of the brutal traditions of German bandit imperialism. Among them is the 'Fuehrer's successor', Grossadmiral Doenitz, Field Marshal Keitel, Grossadmiral Rerder, and Col. Gen. Jodl. Closely tied to this group of military bandits are German war industry magnates, first accomplices of the military.... This is Krupp, in the first place, representing in this list of German plutocrats the German munitions barons for whose selfish interests Germany unleashed wars for world domination.

"Then comes Schacht. All these degenerates disavow any connection with politics, posing as 'businessmen', 'economists', and so forth. Vain efforts! These gentlemen are too closely, in a too 'businesslike manner' connected with the professional murderers and bandits from the so-called 'Government' of Hitlerite Germany, are too deeply steeped in the dirt and baseness of the monstrous crimes of the Hitlerite hangmen to be able to escape severe retribution. Perhaps from the legal viewpoint it is possible to differentiate the degree of the responsibility of the individual criminals.

Peoples' Conscience

"But, in the conscience of our people and of all freedom-loving peoples, the crimes of everyone of these Hitlerite leaders are so heinous and cry for punishment that there cannot be any different degrees of punishment for these beasts. Humanity's conscience is too deeply shocked by the monstrous felonies of the German fascist murders and by their sanguinary crimes, unparalleled in their brutality and refined inhumanity. The conscience of the peoples who crushed the accursed adder of fascist barbarity, who destroyed the fascist beast, and who smashed his den demand that the sword of human justice strike mercilessly at the heads of humanity's hateful enemies--the leaders, organizers, inspirers, and bloodstained murderers of peoples--murders mailed to the pillory of the international military tribunal. And not only because the blood of countless victims of the Hitlerite murderers cries for vengeance. Punishment of the leaders of the Hitlerite band, punishment of war criminals is not only retribution. It is also justice. The peoples wait for and demand that this justice be done most expeditiously and rigidly." (TASS, in English to Latin America, Dec. 30, 1945, 9:02 a.m. EWT)