

SECRET

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4th June, 1945.

UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

NATIONAL OFFICES CONFERENCE

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY THE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE NATIONAL WAR CRIMES OFFICES.

*This was basis
of Whitney
cable
5 June 45*

The representatives of the National War Crimes Offices (representing Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia), having been called upon to summarize the general effect of the discussions at the Conference of the United Nations War Crimes Commission with the National Offices, May 31st - June 2nd, 1945, state the voeu of the majority of the delegations on the several subjects as follows :

I.

There should be established as part of, or under the supervision of, the United Nations War Crimes Commission, one or more central recording offices (in Europe and in the Far Eastern and Pacific area) for the purpose of centralising information concerning the apprehension and final disposal of the accused who have been placed on the Commission's Lists, and of pooling general information on war crimes. So far as the European area is concerned, the S.H.A.E.F. Central Register of Criminals should be made the nucleus of the central recording office of the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

II.

Unless required in the prosecution of the major war criminals, the accused persons mentioned on the War Crimes Commission's Lists should be handed over without delay to the country that has requested their surrender, and the War Crimes Commission should be informed as soon as such surrender has taken place; the Commission should take every step, within its jurisdiction, to ensure that the surrender is effectively carried out.

III.

The surrender of persons by the military authorities of one of the member Governments of the War Crimes Commission to another should be confined to persons figuring on Lists approved by the War Crimes Commission.

IV.

In respect of persons whose delivery for trial has been requested by several United Nations, the War Crimes Commission should be charged to decide as arbitrator the order in which the accused shall be tried by the said countries or to delegate this duty to some other body.

V.

The War Crimes Commission should be authorised to indict, after due investigation, before any United Nations (Interallied) Court which may be instituted, enemy subjects who have not been charged by any National Office.

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VI.

The War Crimes Commission should call the attention of the National Offices to the necessity of interrogating, as soon as practicable, their displaced nationals, political prisoners and prisoners of war, who have been in enemy territory.

VII.

It is desirable that there should be cooperation and participation in the work of the United Nations War Crimes Commission on the part of all the United Nations who have suffered from war crimes, particularly the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, for this is an essential condition of the realisation of the principles and tasks laid down in the Moscow Declaration. Until this is accomplished, there should be increased cooperation between the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission and the National Offices of those countries having a common interest in the punishment of war criminals.

VIII.

All rules and principles applied to the war criminals in Europe should equally apply to Japanese war criminals.

IX.

The War Crimes Commission should be requested to circulate the American recording and indexing system to all the other national offices so that they all may have the benefit of the American experience.

X.

In the event that particular war crimes in an enemy country cannot be investigated by the investigating teams of the United Nation concerned, the War Crimes Commission should itself despatch an investigating team.

XI.

The National Offices should endeavour to collect information and bring charges against persons mentioned in the Commission's lists Nos. 7 and 9 and other similar lists which may be issued.