

PLAN FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS ORGANIZATION FOR
THE TRIAL OF THE MAJOR WAR CRIMINALS.

On August 8, 1945, representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the Provisional Government of the French Republic signed a Charter and Agreement establishing an International Military Tribunal for the trial of the major European Axis War Criminals, setting forth the procedures for the trials before such Tribunal, and enumerating the offenses over which the court shall have jurisdiction. By that instrument it was provided that the permanent seat of the Tribunal shall be in Berlin, that the first trial shall be held at Nuremberg and any subsequent trials shall be held at such places as the Tribunal may decide. At this writing the members of the Tribunal have not been chosen by any of the four Powers. The prosecutor for the United States has been chosen and it is expected that within a few days the prosecutors will be named for the United Kingdom, the USSR and the Provisional Government of the French Republic. Under the Charter and Agreement it would seem to be implied that the Tribunal has the power to regulate in a manner, not inconsistent with the Charter and Agreement, proceedings before it; and would consequently have the power to state what types of persons shall be admitted to the court and in what number, whether the trial shall be photographed and if so by whom, whether the testimony should be recorded on records and in what manner, and many of the other items which are vital parts of a Public Relations program. In all probability there will be a delay of several weeks before the members of the Tribunal are designated by the governments and certainly before the Tribunal, if it saw fit to do so, should determine upon any Public Relations procedures to be followed within the courtroom itself. Inasmuch as the ~~xxxxxx~~ prosecutors have not been named for all four countries, no Public Relations program has developed, at the ~~xxxxxx~~ prosecuting level, upon which the four Powers have agreed. In fact the only Power yet to name a person to be in charge of Public Relations is the United States (Lt. Gordon Dean, attached to the staff of Justice Jackson). There must nevertheless be established a tentative Public Relations program unless the trials will be unduly delayed, and the United States Chief of Counsel proposes the following:

1. General Policy: One of the primary purposes of the trial of the major war criminals is to document and dramatize for contemporary consumption and for history the means and methods employed by the leading Nazis in their plan to dominate the world and to wage an aggressive war. Consequently one of the most important considerations in the preparation for the trial, in the choice of the site, and in the conduct of the trial, is that of getting speedily and clearly to the people

of the world the record of evidence which is developed there. This means that except for the controlling consideration that the trial must be conducted in a judicial atmosphere, with dignity and with dispatch, first attention must be given to those agencies of public dissemination - the press, the radio, and the motion pictures - which will tell the story to the world. So far as the United States is concerned, it does not care which of its agencies performs a particular Public Relations problems by representatives of the Four Powers that the day to day Public Relations work can be done on a committee basis. The United States should proceed on the assumption that since the trial is to be in the American control zone, it must bear the large share of the burden of organizing, staffing and equipping those who will be responsible for the Public Relations phases of the trial.

2. Censorship: There should be no censorship of press, radio or film on material dealing with the events transpiring in the court proceedings. It is conceivable that dispatches might have the area which would in some way involve military security but so far as the judicial proceedings are concerned the world should have every bit of the news regarding it - good or bad.

3. Accrediting of Newspapermen: The accrediting of newspapermen, the furnishing of credentials to them and the arranging of their transportation to and from the control zone would seem appropriately a matter for the Army. PRD has had long experience in this line and has built up procedure which simplify and expedite this difficult task. The only policy regarding accrediting which is involved is that preference should be given first, to the news agencies and newspapers of the four Powers represented on the Tribunal; second to the other Allied nations; and third, to neutrals. Psychological Warfare should determine what news should appear in the eight government-controlled German language newspapers and what should be made available to the other German language newspapers operating with Control Council approval. At the present time plans are being made to accommodate approximately 250 newspaper and radio representatives. Accrediting should not be limited to persons who are presently classified as war correspondents inasmuch as a United States Daily might wish to send someone who is not now so accredited rather than their present war correspondent.

4. Press Camp: The task of billeting, messing and providing local transportation for members of the press to and from the courthouse is a task which should be turned over completely to those in the Army who have had the experience of running press camps. Regular procedures have been adopted and a large experience has been gained in this field. For anyone else to take this on would be a great mistake if the Army is willing to assume the burden.

5. Communications: It is essential that we have the best possible communications from the trial site to the outside world.

This includes wireless for the conveying of news and voice; ADLS (Air Dispatch Letter Service) for newspapers and magazines and for this transmission of pictures, and any landline that may be required. This again is a field in which the Army's experience and facilities indicate that it can do the best job. It should be requested to assume this highly important phase of the work.

6. Photographing of the Trial: In keeping with the dignity of the court, the policy is that the proceedings should be filmed. This means the installation in unobtrusive spots in the walls and from the balcony at several fixed angles of the necessary camera equipment with a staff under the direction of a single person - this to be an official film footage to be available on a pooling basis to newsreels. The purpose of the filming is twofold: first, for contemporary use of newsreels and secondly to secure footage for documentary and historical films of the trials. A staff which can adequately perform this task is available in Field Photographic Section of OSS. It is proposed that the following personnel be used:

Project Supervisor	Col. Kenneth T. Downes
Asst. Project Sup.	Guy W. Thayer
" " "	
(Exterior)	
Writer	Lt. John Monroe, USNR
1st Cameraman	Daniel Fuchs
2nd Cameraman	Harry Sunby
1st Electrician	Lloyd Goldstein
2nd Electrician	H. Rehman
1st Sound Engineer	E. Eberfluous
2nd " "	Lt. F. Moran, USNR
Asst. Cameraman	Lt. Robert Braggins
Still photographer	A. Wetzel
Projectionist	John Swain
Film Editor	G. Hill
Script Clerk	Robert Parrish
Grip	Harold Wickman
Cameraman	G. I. Jones
"	Gus Schenck
Generator operator	Arthur Flynn
	B. Hudson

This staff has the necessary sound and camera equipment at Wiesbaden at the present time, and most of the staff is presently at Wiesbaden.

It does not have the facilities for developing the film except in Washington. The Army does have excellent developing facilities and it is proposed that the Army assume the task of developing and distributing to the newsreels and government agencies the footage from the pictures taken inside the courtroom. It is the policy that no other photographs, motion picture or still, shall be taken inside the courtroom or courthouse except by this staff under the direct control of a Project Supervisor and consistent with any limitations laid down by the Tribunal.

There is no objection to permitting photographers, still or motion picture, to take pictures of the exterior of the courthouse or events in Nuremberg if they are accredited by Army PRD and they are limited to a reasonable number.

7. Voice Recording of Testimony: It is the policy that the proceedings be recorded in sound on records or spools. It is preferable that this be done in such a way that the recording equipment is not actually located in the courtroom. This could be done by having mikes located at the prosecuting table, the Judge's bench and the witness stand, the voice being transmitted to another room where the recording takes place. It is proposed that this recording will be useful for historical purposes and that it will be available to the radio broadcasting companies who can select from the records of the day any testimony which they desire to incorporate in their programs. This is the nearest possible thing to radio broadcasting from the courtroom there is and a much more practical arrangement from the standpoint of all concerned than direct broadcasting from the courtroom. The Army has such recording equipment and it is proposed that they do the job.

8. Reproduction: Reproduction should be considered from two phases. It will be necessary first that a large reproduction unit operate with the office of the clerk of court or some other official designated by the Tribunal, and that such unit would provide in four languages the transcript of the testimony. Such a staff will require persons familiar with the various languages, stencil cutting typewriters of the appropriate languages etc. This is not a purely Public Relations service and will have to be worked out in some way through representatives of the four Powers who will presumably wish to bring their own equipment and personnel.

It is proposed in addition that as a purely Public Relations service there be made available to each newspaperman a daily transcript of the testimony, preferably every hour or two as the case develops so that he will have a complete transcript of the testimony by 8:00 or 8:30 in the evening. It is also the policy that American newspapermen be furnished diagrammatic charts, exhibits, copies of any documents, and any other presentation devices which will make clear the story which the prosecution is developing. This requires a small reproduction unit with the following equipment:

5 mimeograph machines, 2 photostat machines (hand operated), 1 22x29 Webendorfer Offset press, 1 24-inch camera, plate making equipment to handle the above press, 1 photographic dark room including contact print: 4x5 enlarging, 25-mm enlarging, 8x10 enlarging, together with the necessary tanks and chemicals.

The staff necessary for this unit will run roughly as follows:

10 persons who can operate the mimeograph machine and collate the material,
6 persons for the two photostat machines,
2 experienced press men for the offset press,
1 plate maker,
2 experienced dark room men.

It would be preferable to have this job handled entirely by a complete mobile engineering reproduction unit which has all of the above equipment and personnel. At the present time, the Office of Chief of Counsel does not have available to it such equipment or personnel. It is therefore proposed that the Army take over the operation of the reproduction unit which will perform the Public Relations service indicated above and that the materials to be reproduced be determined by the designee of the U.S. Chief of Counsel.

9. Press Releases and Briefing: With four Powers represented in the trial and with many persons present of considerable rank and stature, it would be difficult if not unwise to try and control through one channel the issuance of all official press releases from the trial site. It does seem, however, wise to channelize through one office any official American press releases and it is proposed that this be done through the Office Chief of Counsel. The same holds true for briefing the press and radio on at least the American phases of the case. Certainly one person should be available and it is suggested that he be the designee of the Chief of Counsel who can supply newspapermen with the official position of the United States prosecutor, the policies which he is following during the course of the trial, the witnesses which he proposes to call, the exhibits which he proposes to introduce, etc. This is something that cannot be left to several persons. It must be centralized. If done right, it can be a real service to the press. This is peculiarly a task which calls for knowledge of the case and legal procedures, and it should be under the control of the Chief of Counsel.

signed Gordon Dean,
Office of US Chief of
Counsel.

Approved - US Chief of Counsel.