

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Wilhelm KEITEL
By: Cpl. J. H. Lomen, 29 August 1945, a.m., Nuremberg

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

- 1. KEITEL
 - a. Directives for mobilization, in particular, "Green Plan" (p. 1-6)
 - b. Attack against Czechoslovakia (p. 12)
- 2. JODL and OKW
 - a. "Green Plan" (p. 1-6)
- 3. HALDER and BRAUCHITSCH
 - a. "Green Plan" (p. 5)
 - b. Action against Czechoslovakia (p. 2-3)
- 4. OKH
 - a. "Green Plan" (p. 5)

PREPARATION OF "GREEN PLAN"

In connection with Exhibit "A" discussed at the previous interrogation (28 August 1945, p.m.) Keitel explains that directives, such as the directive "Green" were not orders but were prepared for one year beginning the first of October of each year and dealt with the military developments and possibilities for the period covered by the directive. The draft in question was a proposal for a directive for the "mobilization year". This meant that "on the basis of the available strength of troops or the number of military organizations available it was planned what could be done with the strength during this year". New troops were drafted during this year but were not disposed of until the next mobilization year beginning the last of October 1933 (p. 2).

The draft in question was worked out before Brauchitsch and Halder received oral instructions on 28 May 1933 to get ready for action against Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1933, eight days after the date of Keitel's letter to Hitler (p. 2-3). He remembers the date of the oral order because Hitler referred to it in his Reichstag speech in the fall of 1933 in which he said that on the 28th of May he gave orders for the defense of the West wall and for the "preparation for an invasion of Czechoslovakia" (p. 3).

Thoughts expressed in Exhibit "A" are based on a talk between Keitel, Jodl, and Hitler. Keitel and Jodl sent the draft to Hitler because they wanted to find out Hitler's definite plans for 1933 (p. 4). Their plan did not succeed; the document was filed and never signed and the plan was not carried out. Halder, Brauchitsch and the OKH in general declined this kind of a draft and wished to deal with Hitler independently whereas it was the OKW's intention to coordinate the three branches of the Armed Forces (p. 5).

Keitel, 29 August 1945, a.m.

Keitel admits having prepared and transmitted Exhibit "A" to Hitler (p. 6).

Plan "Green" dealt with the occupation of the eastern Polish and Czech borders while Plan "Red" concerned itself with the occupation of the Western borders (p. 7).

Keitel says that in 1937-1938 Germany feared an attack from Czechoslovakia whose neutrality was doubtful in view of pressure from the East. Moreover, Czechoslovakia was in alliance with France against Germany which was not strong enough at that time to handle such a situation (p. 12).