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

INTERROGATION DIVISION

Statement of Wilhelm Keitel, 19 October, 1945  
Submitted 22 October, 1945 to Mr. Dodd

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects.

1. KEITEL

a. Handwritten document concerning the interrogations of Keitel  
from October 18, 1945 until October 22, 1945. (p. 1)

- (1) Responsibilities of army. (p. 2-3)
- (2) Responsibilities of SS. (p. 2-3)
- (3) Justification of acts against civilians and military  
personnel. (p. 4-6)

ATROCITIES AGAINST CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

This statement is for the purpose of reviewing the documents shown  
to him in an orderly arrangement and after examining the documents to  
properly establish his position in the light of international law. (p.1)

Keitel first distinguishes between the area of responsibility of  
the Army on the one hand and the SS on the other, pointing out that  
many of the documents shown him involved the SS. (p. 2-3) Keitel also  
notes that the USSR was not a party to the Geneva Convention. (p. 2)

The measures taken against the various civilian population were  
adopted only after the local population themselves were guilty of  
resisting the occupying forces, by giving aid and comfort to partisan  
bands and allied agents and commandos. With respect to Russia, when  
the order to shoot civilians without trial was issued in May 1941,  
one month before the attack on Russia, the behavior of the local popu-  
lation in Jugoslavia, inspired by Russian agent, justified Germany in  
taking appropriate precautions in advance. (p. 4-6)