

IPCOG 4 Series -  
383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR, GERMAN


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## LIST OF PAPERS

FILE UNDER NO. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR, GERMAN

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
IPCOG	4 Series - Plans for Disposal of German Prisoners of War and Disarmed Forces			



~~SECRET~~COPY NO. 40IPCOG 4/19 June 1945Pages 9 to 11, Incl.INFORMAL POLICY COMMITTEE ON GERMANYPLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND DISARMED FORCESReference: a. IPCOG 4Note by the Secretaries

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) Jan 29, 1971  
JCS Regarding memo 16-17  
By: *[Signature]* NARS Date 6/8/73

1. The enclosure, a memorandum for the Department of State and the British Embassy from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, transmitting the text of a message (Appendix) to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, is circulated for the information of the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

2. In view of the action taken by the Combined Chiefs of Staff on this matter, no further action is required on reference a., and this item is hereby removed from the Agenda.

CHARLES W. McCARTHY

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

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SECRETENCLOSURE

6 June 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:  
BRITISH EMBASSY:

There is enclosed for your information SCAF 372\*, a message from the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and a copy of reply by the Combined Chiefs of Staff regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

This interim action was taken in view of the pressing need for early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disarmed German forces now in Allied hands. However, it is considered that the final solution of this problem rests with the governments concerned or the Reparations Commission. Accordingly, this reference is made for your information and for possible communication to the Allied Reparations Commission in Moscow.

For the Combined Chiefs of Staff:

(SIGNED)

A. T. CORNWALL-JONES,  
Brigadier,

(SIGNED)

A. J. McFARLAND,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,

Combined Secretariat.

Enclosure\*\*

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\* Appendix "D", IPCOG 4.  
\*\* See Appendix hereto



SECRETAPPENDIX

TEXT OF MESSAGE TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FROM THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF  
(Information copy to the Supreme Allied Com-  
mander, Mediterranean)

This is in reply to SCAF 372 repeated this date to SACMED. It is considered that in view of the agreement to establish an Allied Reparation Commission, which will consider reparation in kind as raised by your message, the final solution in connection with your inquiry rests with the governments concerned. However, as an interim measure, the following has been decided:

1. "Rehabilitation work outside of Germany" is interpreted to mean reconstruction within those European areas that lie within your present area of responsibility plus France, the United Kingdom, and Channel Islands.
2. United States and British needs for labor for rehabilitation and other purposes including those for the United Kingdom and Channel Islands, and inside Germany, will be given primary consideration when calculating number of German prisoners available for transfer from their respective sources within your area of responsibility. Minimum manpower needs for carrying out policies of Allied Military Government within Germany will be included in calculating U.S. and British needs for labor inside Germany.
3. All German prisoners of war transferred to any of the United Nations concerned will be transferred under the condition that they remain in the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. Before transferring any prisoners to countries not bound by Geneva Convention, you should report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
4. Such allocations of German manpower will be without prejudice to future reconsideration and readjustment to meet subsequent needs and demands.
5. No prisoners of war or members of German disarmed forces who fall within the category of war criminals or



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other categories of wanted German personnel or whose retention is desired on security grounds, will be released to other United Nations or if inadvertently released they shall be returned upon demand.

6. In the event of any Allied Government requesting transfer of prisoners of war on terms which involve continuing liability on U.S.A. or U.K. for any assistance, matter should be reported to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

It is desired that you procure from the interested United Nations, through those channels available to you, the information requested in your A and D, and subject to the conditions outlined above, allocate German prisoners accordingly. Should the estimated demands for labor of this kind exceed the total German personnel available, you will report the pertinent data to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

- - -



Reference: C.C.S. 276/27 (subject to amendments)

*Furnished to Mr. [unclear]*

*Page 4/1*





THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SM-2088

9 June 1945

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE:

Subject: Plans for Disposal of German  
Prisoners of War and Disarmed  
Forces.

There is enclosed for the information of  
the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee a  
copy of a memorandum on the above subject which  
the Combined Chiefs of Staff have forwarded to the  
Department of State and the British Embassy.

A. J. McFARLAND,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,  
Secretary.

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JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE: 1973

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6 June 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:  
BRITISH EMBASSY:

There is enclosed for your information SCAF 372, a message from the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and a copy of reply by the Combined Chiefs of Staff regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

This interim action was taken in view of the pressing need for early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disarmed German forces now in Allied hands. However, it is considered that the final solution of this problem rests with the governments concerned or the Reparations Commission. Accordingly, this reference is made for your information and for possible communication to the Allied Reparations Commission in Moscow.

For the Combined Chiefs of Staff:

(SIGNED)

(SIGNED)

A. T. CORNWALL-JONES,  
Brigadier,A. J. McFARLAND,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,

Combined Secretariat.

Enclosures (2)

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JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE.....*1973*.....

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~~SECRET~~ENCLOSURE "A"TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED EX-  
PEDITIONARY FORCE TO THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF -  
(SCAF 372)

In order that plans may be completed for the early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disarmed German forces in Allied hands, it is urgently necessary that information should reach this headquarters at an early date regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany, as it is presumed that such demands will receive priority over discharge and/or repatriation of the German Wehrmacht.

Information upon the following specific points is therefore urgently requested:

- a. The numbers of Germans required for labor by each of the United Nations for rehabilitation work outside Germany.
- b. Their status during such employment, i.e., whether required as prisoners of war or civilian labor.
- c. The authority responsible for specifying the source or sources from which these demands are to be filled.
- d. The dates on which each user nation can accept deliveries of personnel increments and the size of such increments.
- e. Whether any of the United Nations holding prisoners of war are averse to the transfer of prisoners of war to another United Nation for use as prisoner of war labor.

In the meantime, it is intended that after the announcement of VE-Day, prisoners of war whose release from prisoner of war camps has been authorized by your FACS 207 shall be discharged as part of the priority categories of labor mentioned in ECLIPSE Memorandum No. 17, together with such others as are urgently required for essential work.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D)

SCS Regarding memo 34-71 Jan 29, 1971

By: ML, NRHS Date 6/8/73

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ENCLOSURE "B"TEXT OF MESSAGE TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED EX-  
PEDITIONARY FORCE FROM THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF(Information copy to the Supreme Allied Com-  
mander, Mediterranean)

This is in reply to SCAF 372 repeated this date to SACMED. It is considered that in view of the agreement to establish an Allied Reparation Commission, which will consider reparation in kind as raised by your message, the final solution in connection with your inquiry rests with the governments concerned. However, as an interim measure, the following has been decided:

1. "Rehabilitation work outside of Germany" is interpreted to mean reconstruction within those European areas that lie within your present area of responsibility plus France, the United Kingdom, and Channel Islands.

2. United States and British needs for labor for rehabilitation and other purposes including those for the United Kingdom and Channel Islands, and inside Germany, will be given primary consideration when calculating number of German prisoners available for transfer from their respective sources within your area of responsibility. Minimum manpower needs for carrying out policies of Allied Military Government within Germany will be included in calculating U.S. and British needs for labor inside Germany.

3. All German prisoners of war transferred to any of the United Nations concerned will be transferred under the condition that they remain in the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. Before transferring any prisoners to countries not bound by Geneva Convention, you should report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

4. Such allocations of German manpower will be without prejudice to future reconsideration and readjustment to meet subsequent needs and demands.

5. No prisoners of war or members of German disarmed forces who fall within the category of war criminals or other categories of wanted German personnel or whose retention is desired on security grounds, will be released to other United Nations or if inadvertently released they shall be returned upon demand.

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6. In the event of any Allied Government requesting transfer of prisoners of war on terms which involve continuing liability on U.S.A. or U.K. for any assistance, matter should be reported to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

It is desired that you procure from the interested United Nations, through those channels available to you, the information requested in your A and D, and subject to the conditions outlined above, allocate German prisoners accordingly. Should the estimated demands for labor of this kind exceed the total German personnel available, you will report the pertinent data to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

**SECRET**



18 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. CLAYTON  
MR. MCGLOY  
MR. GATES  
MR. WHITE  
MR. FOWLER

IPCGG 4, dated 17 May 1948, has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretariat.

A copy of this paper has been forwarded to the White House for comment or concurrence of Mr. Pauley.

If approved, the Secretariat will take the necessary steps to inform the Secretariat, Combined Chiefs of Staff.

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON  
Deputy Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_



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JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE: 1973

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18 May 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. CLAYTON  
MR. MCGLOY  
MR. GATES  
MR. WHITE  
MR. FOWLER

IPCCG 4, dated 17 May 1946, has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretariat.

A copy of this paper has been forwarded to the White House for comment or concurrence of Mr. Pauley.

If approved, the Secretariat will take the necessary steps to inform the Secretariat, Combined Chiefs of Staff.

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON  
Deputy Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: *1973*



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18 May 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. PAULEY

Enclosed is a copy of IPCOG 4, dated 17 May 1946, which has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretary, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, Room 178, State Department.

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON  
Deputy Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure:  
Cy. 48, IPCOG 4.

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DATE: 19-73

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Germany*

18 May 1945

**MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. PAULEY**

Enclosed is a copy of IPCOG 4, dated 17 May 1945, which has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretary, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, Room 178, State Department.

**ALVIN F. RICHARDSON**  
Deputy Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure:  
Cy. 48, IPCOG 4.

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DATE: *1973*

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THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

18 May 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. PAULEY

Enclosed is a copy of IPCOG 4, dated 17 May 1945, which has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretary, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, Room 178, State Department.

*Alvin F. Richardson*

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON  
Deputy Secretary

APPROVED *[Signature]*

Enclosure:  
Cy. 48, IPCOG 4.

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DATE: *1973*

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Room 178  
State Department  
THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

2913

18 May 1945  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
W L CLAYTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. CLAYTON  
MR. McCLOY  
MR. GATES  
MR. WHITE  
MR. FOWLER

MAY 18 1945

A-C *am*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IPCOG 4, dated 17 May 1945, has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretariat.

A copy of this paper has been forwarded to the White House for comment or concurrence of Mr. Pauley.

If approved, the Secretariat will take the necessary steps to inform the Secretariat, Combined Chiefs of Staff.

*Alvin F. Richardson*  
ALVIN F. RICHARDSON  
Deputy Secretary

APPROVED: *W. L. Clayton*

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JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE.....*1973*.....

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THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

18 May 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. CLAYTON  
MR. McGLOY  
MR. BARD  
MR. WHITE  
MR. FOWLER

IPCOG 4, dated 17 May 1945, has been circulated for informal approval by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

It is requested that you indicate your comment or concurrence hereon and return to the Secretariat.

A copy of this paper has been forwarded to the White House for comment or concurrence of Mr. Pauley.

If approved, the Secretariat will take the necessary steps to inform the Secretariat, Combined Chiefs of Staff.

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON  
Deputy Secretary

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COPY NO. 40IPCOG 417 May 1945Pages 1 to 8, Incl.INFORMAL POLICY COMMITTEE ON GERMANYPLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND DISARMED FORCESReference: a. IPCOG 2/1Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a proposed report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff by the Combined Administrative Committee, presented by the State Department member of IPCOG, is circulated for consideration of the recommendations contained therein by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

CHARLES W. McCARTHY

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

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DATE: *1973*

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TOP SECRETE N C L O S U R EPLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND DISARMED FORCESReport by the  
Combined Administrative CommitteeTHE PROBLEM

1. To consider SCAF 372 (Appendix "D"), a message from Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and
  - a. To prepare an over-all plan for obtaining the information requested by General Eisenhower; and
  - b. To recommend action to give General Eisenhower immediate guidance on the most important points on which he requires advice.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. See Appendix "C".

DISCUSSION

3. Demands which may be made by certain European United Nations which are not now within the SHAEF area of responsibility may raise political, rather than purely military, questions. Therefore, "Rehabilitation work outside Germany" should be interpreted as referring only to those countries of the United Nations which lie within the SHAEF area of responsibility, plus the United Kingdom.

4. As the question of reparations in kind will be decided ultimately on the Governmental level, either by the Governments concerned or by the Allied Reparation Commission in Moscow, it is not possible to go beyond the formulation of an interim decision at this time.

CONCLUSIONS

5. SHAEF should procure, through channels immediately available to it, the necessary data concerning the requirements of each of the United Nations within the SHAEF area of responsibility, plus the United Kingdom, for prisoner of war labor for



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rehabilitation work outside Germany.

6. a. For the present, transfers should be limited to German prisoners of war and should be made only to those United Nations which are willing to accept and retain German prisoners in a prisoner of war status under the Geneva Convention.

b. These transfers should be on a temporary basis, pending possible future readjustments by the Governments concerned or by the Allied Reparation Commission.

c. War criminals, other categories of wanted personnel, or those persons retained on security grounds will not be transferred.

7. a. If United Nations total requests for prisoner of war labor fall short of the supply, SHAEF should be authorized to transfer such personnel to the United Nation concerned at such time as the user nation can accept delivery. However, should total requirements exceed the number of prisoners of war in custody, the pertinent data should be referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

b. United States and British needs, including those for the United Kingdom, should be given primary consideration when calculating the number of German prisoners available for transfer from their respective sources.

8. In the final analysis, the solution of this question rests with the governments concerned. Therefore, the interim measures taken should be reported to the Department of State and the British Foreign Office, respectively, for reference of the problem and the action taken to the Allied Reparation Commission in Moscow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. a. That the message in Appendix "A" be dispatched to SHAEF.

b. That the memorandum contained in Appendix "B" be dispatched through channels to the British Embassy, Washington, and the Department of State.



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## MESSAGE TO SUPREME COMMANDER ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE:

This is in reply to SCAF 372. It is considered that in view of the agreement to establish an Allied Reparation Commission, which will consider reparation in kind as raised by your message, the final solution in connection with your inquiry rests with the governments concerned. However, as an interim measure, the following has been decided:

1. "Rehabilitation work outside of Germany" is interpreted to mean reconstruction within those European areas that lie within your present area of responsibility plus the United Kingdom.
2. United States and British needs including those for the United Kingdom will be given primary consideration when calculating number of German prisoners available for transfer from their respective sources.
3. All German personnel transferred to any of the United Nations concerned will be transferred under the condition that they remain in the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention.
4. You should procure from each of the transferee nations an agreement to regard any allocations of such manpower as temporary, and without prejudice to future readjustment to meet subsequent needs and demands.
5. No prisoners of war or members of German disarmed forces who fall within the category of war criminals or other categories of wanted German personnel or whose retention is desired on security grounds, will be released to other United Nations or if inadvertently released they shall be returned upon demand.

It is desired that you procure from the interested United Nations, through those channels available to you, the information requested in your A, D, and E, and subject to the conditions outlined above, allocate German prisoners accordingly. Should the estimated demands for labor of this kind exceed the total German personnel available, you will report the pertinent data to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.



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APPENDIX "B"

D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR:

1. There is inclosed for your information SCAF 372 and the interim action taken thereon by the Combined Chiefs of Staff regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

2. The foregoing action was taken in view of the pressing need for early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disarmed German forces now in Allied hands. However, it is considered that the final solution of this problem rests with the Governments concerned or the Reparation Commission. Accordingly, this reference is made for your information and for possible communication to the Allied Reparation Commission in Moscow.



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1. a. In SCAF 372 General Eisenhower requests information regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

b. Specifically, information is requested upon the following points:

(1) The numbers of Germans required for labor by each of the United Nations for rehabilitation work outside Germany.

(2) Their status during such employment, i.e. whether required as prisoners of war or civilian labor.

(3) The authority responsible for specifying the source or sources from which these demands are to be filled.

(4) The dates on which each user nation can accept deliveries of personnel increments and the size of such increments.

(5) Whether any of the United Nations holding prisoners of war are averse to the transfer of prisoners of war to another United Nation for use as prisoner of war labor.

c. Pending reply, SHAEF intends to release from prisoner of war camps those German personnel who may be discharged as part of the priority categories of labor mentioned in Eclipse Memorandum No. 17, together with such others as are urgently required for essential work.

2. a. Eclipse Memorandum No. 17, subject "Disbandment of German Armed Forces" provides that discharges of German personnel will be subject to the following priority calls upon such manpower:

One. Demands for such personnel to carry out essential labor for the Allied Forces in occupation.

Two. Demands from the Governments of Allied and liberated territories for labor for purposes of reconstruction.



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b. Subject to the foregoing the following priority categories of labor are established:

- (1) Personnel for work in certain public utilities service.
- (2) Personnel for work in transportation services.
- (3) Personnel for work in certain classes of building trades.
- (4) Agricultural workers.
- (5) Such other specialist personnel as may be required by Zone Commanders.

3. Previous C.G.S. directives have authorized SHAEF to utilize certain German prisoners of war in agriculture, coal mining, and transportation (C.C.S. 844 Series).

a. The Combined Chiefs of Staff (C.C.S. 823 series) have also authorized the release from prisoner of war status and treatment as disarmed German Forces of those German prisoners in Allied custody who were not evacuated from Germany at the time of the cessation of hostilities.

b. The foregoing was subject to the proviso that the United Kingdom might require additional prisoners for labor outside Germany, that such personnel in the desired numbers might be declared British prisoners of war and therefore were not to be included in the category of disarmed troops.

4. It is not known to what extent German personnel will be desired or needed for rehabilitation work outside Germany by any of the other European United Nations concerned. However, it may be assumed that demands for substantial numbers of such personnel will be made.

5. An Allied Reparation Commission is to be established in Moscow. Its agenda includes, among others, questions of reparations in kind, such as the one under study.

6. Upon their being returned to Europe, German prisoners of war now held in the United States and in the various extra



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European holding countries of the British Commonwealth, will be available for such transfer to the interested European United Nations, if desired.

7. There will be a need for large numbers of German prisoner of war labor in the United Kingdom, and in support of the British and United States occupation forces on the continent, but the precise numbers to be so utilized are not yet firm.

8. SHAEF already has direct channels of communication with the competent authorities of the United Nations within its area of responsibility.



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From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
Main, Versailles, France.

To: War Department for Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Nr: S 87417      SCAF 372      8 May 1945

In order that plans may be completed for the early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disarmed German forces in Allied hands, it is urgently necessary that information should reach this headquarters at an early date regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany, as it is presumed that such demands will receive priority over discharge and/or repatriation of the German Wehrmacht.

Information upon the following specific points is therefore urgently requested:

- A. The numbers of Germans required for labor by each of the United Nations for rehabilitation work outside Germany.
- B. Their status during such employment, i.e., whether required as prisoners of war or civilian labor.
- C. The authority responsible for specifying the source or sources from which these demands are to be filled.
- D. The dates on which each user nation can accept deliveries of personnel increments and the size of such increments.
- E. Whether any of the United Nations holding prisoners of war are averse to the transfer of prisoners of war to another United Nation for use as prisoner of war labor.

In the meantime, it is intended that after the announcement of VE-Day, prisoners of war whose release from prisoner of war camps has been authorized by your FACS 207\* shall be discharged as part of the priority categories of labor mentioned in "Eclipse" Memorandum no. 17, together with such others as are urgently required for essential work.

CM-IN-7643

(8 May 45)

DTG 08/1630B

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\* Quotation in C.C.S. 844/1; answer to SCAF 308 (Enclosure to C.C.S. 844).



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COPY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IPCOG 417 May 1945*pgs. 1 to 8, incl*INFORMAL POLICY COMMITTEE ON GERMANYPLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND DISARMED FORCESReference: a. IPCOG 2/1Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a proposed report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff by a subcommittee ~~by~~ <sup>of</sup> the Combined Administrative Committee, presented by the State Department member <sup>of IPCOG</sup>, is circulated for consideration of the recommendations contained therein by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

CHARLES W. McCARTHY

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat



1. The enclosure, a <sup>proposed</sup> reply to SCAF 372 <sup>(Appendix A)</sup>, a message from SHAEF, as recommended by a subcommittee of the Combined Administrative Committee, ~~is circulated by the State Member~~ is circulated, at the request of the State <sup>Department</sup> Member, for consideration by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

2.

<sup>to the CS</sup>  
1 The enclosure, a proposed report by ~~the~~ a subcommittee of the Combined Administrative Committee, presented by the State Department Member, ~~is~~ is circulated for consideration of the recommendations contained therein by the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

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PLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND DISARMED FORCESReferences: a. C.A.D.C. 95/D  
b. C.C.S. 844 SeriesTHE PROBLEM

1. To consider SCAF 372, a message from Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and
  - a. To prepare an over-all plan for obtaining the information requested by General Eisenhower; and
  - b. To recommend action to give General Eisenhower immediate guidance on the most important points on which he requires advice.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM  
(See Appendix "C")

2.

DISCUSSION

3. Demands which may be made by certain European United Nations which are not now within the SHAEF area of responsibility may raise political, rather than purely military, questions. Therefore, "Rehabilitation work outside Germany" should be interpreted as referring only to those countries of the United Nations which lie within the SHAEF area of responsibility, plus the United Kingdom.
4. As the question of reparations in kind will be decided ultimately on the Governmental level, either by the Governments concerned or by the Allied Reparation Commission in Moscow, it is not possible to go beyond the formulation of an interim decision

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JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE: *1973*



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at this time.

CONCLUSIONS

4. SHAEF should procure, through channels immediately available to it, the necessary data concerning the requirements of each of the United Nations within the SHAEF area of responsibility, plus the United Kingdom, for prisoner of war labor for rehabilitation work outside Germany.
5. a. For the present, transfers should be limited to German prisoners of war and should be made only to those United Nations which are willing to accept and retain German prisoners in a prisoner of war status under the Geneva Convention.
- b. These transfers should be on a temporary basis, pending possible future readjustments by the Governments concerned or by the Allied Reparation Commission.
- c. War criminals, other categories of wanted personnel, or those persons retained on security grounds will not be transferred.
6. a. If United Nations total requests for prisoner of war labor fall short of the supply SHAEF should be authorized to transfer such personnel to the United Nation concerned at such time as the user nation can accept delivery. However, should total requirements exceed the number of prisoners of war in custody,
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the pertinent data should be referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

b. United States and British needs, including those for the United Kingdom, should be given primary consideration when calculating the number of German prisoners available for transfer from their respective sources.

8. In the final analysis, the solution of this question rests with the governments concerned. Therefore, the interim measures taken should be reported to the Department of State and the British Foreign Office, respectively, for reference of the problem and the action taken to the Allied Reparation Commission in Moscow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. a. That the message in Appendix "A" be dispatched to SHAEF.

b. That the memorandum contained in Appendix "B" be dispatched through channels to the British Embassy, Washington and the Department of State.

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APPENDIX "A"

MESSAGE TO SUPREME COMMANDER ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
(appendix P)

This is in reply to SCAF 372. It is considered that in view of the agreement to establish an Allied Reparation Commission, which will consider reparation in kind as raised by your message, the final solution in connection with your inquiry rests with the governments concerned. However, as an interim measure, the following has been decided:

1. "Rehabilitation work outside of Germany" is interpreted to mean reconstruction within those European areas that lie within your present area of responsibility plus the United Kingdom.
2. United States and British needs including those for the United Kingdom will be given primary consideration when calculating number of German prisoners available for transfer from their respective sources.
3. All German personnel transferred to any of the United Nations concerned will be transferred under the condition that they remain in the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention.
4. You should procure from each of the transferee nations an agreement to regard any allocations of such manpower as temporary, and without prejudice to future readjustment to meet subsequent needs and demands.



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5. No prisoners of war or members of German disarmed forces who fall within the category of war criminals or other categories of wanted German personnel or whose retention is desired on security grounds, will be released to other United Nations or if inadvertently released they shall be retained upon demand.

It is desired that you procure from the interested United Nations, through those channels available to you, the information requested in your A, D, and E, and subject to the conditions outlined above, allocate German prisoners accordingly. Should the estimated demands for labor of this kind exceed the total German personnel available, you will report the pertinent data to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

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APPENDIX "B"

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR

1. There is inclosed for your information SCAF 372 and the interim action taken thereon by the Combined Chiefs of Staff regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

2. The foregoing action was taken in view of the pressing need for early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disarmed German forces now in Allied hands. However, it is considered that the final solution of this problem rests with the Governments concerned or the Reparation Commission. Accordingly, this reference is made for your information and for possible communication to the Allied Reparation Commission in Moscow.

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APPENDIX "C"

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. a. -In SCAF 372 General Eisenhower requests information regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

b. Specifically, information is requested upon the following points.

(1) The numbers of Germans required for labor by each of the United Nations for rehabilitation work outside Germany.

(2) Their status during such employment, i.e., whether required as prisoners of war or civilian labor.

(3) The authority responsible for specifying the source or sources from which these demands are to be filled.

(4) The dates on which each user nation can accept deliveries of personnel increments and the size of such increments.

(5) Whether any of the United Nations holding prisoners of war are averse to the transfer of prisoners of war to another United Nation for use as prisoner of war labor.

c. Pending reply, SHAEF intends to release from prisoner of war camps those German personnel who may be discharged as part of the priority categories of labor mentioned in Eclipse Memorandum No. 17, together with such others as are urgently required for essential work.

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2. a. Eclipse Memorandum No. 17, subject: "Disbandment of German Armed Forces" provides that discharges of German personnel will be subject to the following priority calls upon such manpower:

One. Demands for such personnel to carry out essential labor for the Allied Forces in occupation.

Two. Demands from the Governments of Allied and liberated territories for labor for purposes of reconstruction.

b. Subject to the foregoing the following priority categories of labor are established:

(1) Personnel for work in certain public utilities service.

(2) Personnel for work in transportation services.

(3) Personnel for work in certain classes of building trades.

(4) Agricultural workers.

(5) Such other specialist personnel as may be required by Zone Commanders.

3. Previous C.C.S. directives have authorized SHAEF to utilize certain German prisoners of war in agriculture, coal mining, and transportation (C.C.S. 844 Series).

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a. The Combined Chiefs (C.C.S. 823 series) have also authorized the release from prisoner of war status and treatment as disarmed German Forces of those German prisoners in Allied custody who were not evacuated from Germany at the time of the cessation of hostilities.

b. The foregoing was subject to the proviso that the United Kingdom might require additional prisoners for labor outside Germany, that such personnel in the desired numbers might be declared British prisoners of war and therefore were not to be included in the category of disarmed troops.

4. It is not known to what extent German personnel will be desired or needed for rehabilitation work outside Germany by any of the other European United Nations concerned. However, it may be assumed that demands for substantial numbers of such personnel will be made.

5. An Allied Reparation Commission is to be established in Moscow. Its agenda includes, among others, questions of reparations in kind, such as the one under study.

6. Upon their being returned to Europe, German prisoners of war now held in the United States and in the various extra European holding countries of the British Commonwealth, will be available for such transfer to the interested European United Nations, if



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desired.

7. There will be a need for large numbers of German prisoner of war labor in the United Kingdom, and in support of the British and United States occupation forces on the continent, but the precise numbers to be so utilized are not yet firm.

8. SHAEF already has direct channels of communication with the competent authorities of the United Nations within its area of responsibility.

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*OK  
As amended*

*Spang 4*

PLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND DISARMED FORCES

References: a. C.A.D.C. 95/D  
b. C.C.S. 844 Series

*OK  
As amended  
Jan*

THE PROBLEM

1. To consider SCAF 372, a message from Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and
  - a. To prepare an over-all plan for obtaining the information requested by General Eisenhower; and
  - b. To recommend action to give General Eisenhower immediate guidance on the most important points on which he requires advice.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

(See Appendix "C")

DISCUSSION

2. Demands which may be made by certain European United Nations which are not now within the SHAEF area of responsibility may raise political, rather than purely military, questions. Therefore, "Rehabilitation work outside Germany" should be interpreted as referring only to those countries of the United Nations which lie within the SHAEF area of responsibility.

*plus the United Kingdom*

3. As the question of reparations in kind, will be decided ultimately on the Governmental level, either by the Governments concerned or by the Allied Reparations Commission in Moscow, it is not possible to go beyond the formulation of an interim decision at this time.

CONCLUSIONS

4. SHAEF should procure, through channels immediately available to it, the necessary data concerning the requirements of each of the United

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DATE: *12-23*



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Nations within the SHAEF area of responsibility <sup>plus the United Kingdom</sup> for prisoner of war labor  
 for rehabilitation work outside Germany.

5. a. For the present, transfers should be limited to German prisoners of war and should be made only to those United Nations which are willing to accept and retain German prisoners in a prisoner of war status. <sup>under the Geneva Convention</sup>

b. These transfers should be on a <sup>temporary</sup> ~~limited~~ basis, pending possible future readjustments by the Governments concerned or by the Allied Reparations Commission.

c. War criminals, other categories of wanted personnel, or those persons ~~retained~~ <sup>?</sup> retained on security grounds will not be transferred.

6(a) If United Nations total requests for prisoner of war labor fall short of the supply SHAEF should be authorized to transfer such personnel at such time as the user nation can accept delivery to the United Nation concerned. However, should total requirements exceed the number of prisoners of war in custody, the pertinent data should be referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision. <sup>(b)</sup> <sup>including those for the United States and British needs, ~~actual~~ <sup>Kingdom</sup></sup> should be given primary consideration when calculating the number of German prisoners available for transfer from their <sup>respective</sup> sources.

In the  
 7. <sup>final</sup> analysis, the solution of this question rests with the governments concerned. Therefore, the interim measures taken should be reported to the Department of State and the British Foreign Office,

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respectively, for reference of the problem and the action taken to the

Allied Reparations Commission in Moscow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. a. That the message in Appendix "A" be dispatched to SCHEP.
- b. That the memorandum contained in Appendix "B" be dispatched through channels to the British Embassy, Washington and the Department of State.

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## APPENDIX "A"

## MESSAGE TO SUPREME COMMANDER ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

This is in reply to SCAF 372. It is considered that in view of the ~~agreement to establish an organization of the Allied Reparations Commission, which has on its agenda the question of reparations~~ <sup>will consider</sup> in kind as raised by your message, the final solution in connection with your inquiry rests with the governments concerned. However, as an interim measure, the following has been decided:

1. ~~It is assumed that~~ "Rehabilitation work outside of Germany" <sup>is interpreted to mean</sup> reconstruction within those European areas that lie within your present area of responsibility. <sup>plus the United Kingdom</sup>

2. United States and British needs <sup>including those for the United Kingdom</sup> will be given primary consideration when calculating number of German prisoners available for transfer <sup>respectively</sup> from their sources.

3. All <sup>German</sup> personnel transferred to any of the United Nations <sup>be transferred under the condition that they</sup> concerned will remain in the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. ~~(If transfers are effected to any United Nation <sup>NOT</sup> a party to the Convention, an undertaking will be secured from that nation to apply the standards of international law to such German personnel.)~~

4. You should procure from each of the transferee nations an agreement to regard any allocations of such manpower as temporary, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ and without prejudice to future readjustment to meet subsequent needs and demands.

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5. No prisoners of war or members of German disarmed forces who fall within the category of war criminals or other categories of wanted German personnel or whose retention is desired on security grounds, will be released to other United Nations.

*or if immediately released they shall be released upon demand.*

It is desired that you procure from the interested United Nations, through those channels available to you, the information requested in your *A, D* and *E* ~~Upon receipt of such information, and if the supply available is sufficient to meet all demands,~~ <sup>and</sup> subject to the conditions outlined above, ~~you may~~ <sup>allocate</sup> German prisoners accordingly. ~~However,~~ <sup>estimated demands</sup> should the ~~requirements~~ <sup>^</sup> for labor of this kind exceed the total German personnel available, you will report the pertinent data to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for decision.

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APPENDIX "B"

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR

1. There is inclosed for your information SCAP 372 and the interim action taken thereon by the Combined Chiefs of Staff regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.

2. The foregoing action was taken in view of the pressing need for early disposal of the vast numbers of prisoners of war and disbanded German forces now in Allied hands. However, it is considered that the final solution of this problem rests with the Governments concerned or the Reparations Commission. ~~Accordingly.~~ Accordingly. This reference is made for your information and for possible communication to the Allied Reparations Commission in Moscow.

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APPENDIX "C"

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FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. a. In SCAP 372 General Eisenhower requests information regarding the requirements of the United Nations for German personnel to carry out rehabilitation work outside Germany.
  - b. Specifically, information is requested upon the following points:
    - (1) The numbers of Germans required for labor by each of the United Nations for rehabilitation work outside Germany.
    - (2) Their status during such employment, i.e., whether required as prisoners of war or civilian labor.
    - (3) The authority responsible for specifying the source or sources from which these demands are to be filled.
    - (4) The dates on which each user nation can accept deliveries of personnel increments and the size of such increments.
    - (5) Whether any of the United Nations holding prisoners of war are averse to the transfer of prisoners of war to another United Nation for use as prisoner of war labor.
  - c. Pending reply, SHANF intends to release from prisoner of war camps those German personnel who may be discharged as part of the priority categories of labor mentioned in Eclipse Memorandum No. 17, together with such others as are urgently required for essential work.
2. a. Eclipse Memorandum No. 17, subject: "Disbandment of German

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Armed Forces\* provides that discharges of German personnel will be subject to the following priority calls upon such manpower:

One. Demands for such personnel to carry out essential labor for the Allied Forces in occupation.

Two. Demands from the Governments of Allied and liberated territories for labor for purposes of reconstruction.

b. Subject to the foregoing the following priority categories of labor are established:

- (1) Personnel for work in certain public utilities service.
- (2) Personnel for work in transportation services.
- (3) Personnel for work in certain classes of building trades.
- (4) Agricultural workers.
- (5) Such other specialist personnel as may be required by

Zone Commanders.

3. Previous C.C.S. directives have authorized SHAEF to utilize certain German prisoners of war in agriculture, coal mining, and transportation (C.C.S. 844 Series).

a. The Combined Chiefs (C.C.S. 823 series) have also authorized the release from prisoner of war status and treatment as disarmed German Forces of those German prisoners in Allied custody who were not evacuated from Germany at the time of the cessation of hostilities.

b. The foregoing was subject to the proviso that the United

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Kingdom might require additional prisoners for labor outside Germany, that such personnel in the desired numbers might be declared British prisoners of war and therefore were not to be included in the category of disabled troops.

4. It is not known to what extent German personnel will be desired or needed for rehabilitation work outside Germany by any of the other European United Nations concerned. However, it may be assumed that demands for substantial numbers of such personnel will be made.

5. An Allied Reparations Commission is to be established in Moscow. Its agenda includes, among others, questions of reparations in kind, such as the one under study.

6. Upon their being returned to Europe, German prisoners of war now held in the United States and in the various extra European holding countries of the British Commonwealth, will be available for such transfer to the interested European United Nations, if desired.

7. There will be a need for large numbers of German prisoner of war labor in the United Kingdom, and in support of the British and United States occupation forces on the continent, but the precise numbers to be so utilized are not yet firm.

8. SHAEF already has direct channels of communication with the competent authorities of the United Nations within its area of responsibility.

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