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November 14th 1945

To General Donovan.

Nurnberg

General,

May I ask you the great favour of writing to you.

I am among the few people who have watched and gone through the frightful events of the last twelve years in Germany from nearby and with open eyes. Thanks to my official position I think I knew more of the background of Hitler's policy than many others.

I welcome the installation of the International Military Tribunal, the competence of which nobody can doubt, who takes into consideration, how dreadfully the Hitler crime has affected the whole world. I submit myself voluntarily to this court, in the justice of which I have full confidence. I do it the more willingly as the trial will prove that I am in no way guilty of any crime or immorality.

I would therefore be very grateful, if an officer of your high standing, of your experience and wisdom and of your well known international reputation would be willing, to look into a brief summary of the underlying reasons and conditions of the dreadful Nazi-regime, as I have experienced them.

I would greatly prefer to submit such summary to a man of your judgement and capacity than to any of the lawyers or defence counsels which may appear before courts.

Awaiting a favourable decision, I am, General,

Highly respectfully yours

/s/ Hjalmar Schacht