OFFICE OF U.S. OF COUNSEL
FOR THE Prosecution of 'XIS crimin'ity
INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Wilhelm KEITEL
By: Mr. T. J. Dodd, 27, August 1945, P.M. Nuremberg.

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, AND SUBJECTS.

1. Keitel
   a) Knowledge of "Hossbach Minutes" (386-PS) (p. 1-3)
   b) Military plans for occupation of 'ustrip (p.4-6, 9-11)
   c) Knowledge of military plans against Czecho-Slovakia (p.10)

PREPARATION FOR 'AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST 'USTRIE'.

Keitel was questioned with reference to the "Hossbach minutes" (386-PS) of 5 November 1937 (not shown to him); and he was in complete ignorance of the meeting which formed the subject of the document (p.1-3). No plans had been made for military action against 'ustrip until three days before the occupation (p.4-6). After the discussion with Schuschnigg at Berchtesgaden on 5 November 1937, no military plans were made until in March when a report was received of the order for new elections in 'ustrip. At this point Hitler directed Keitel to confer with Bruchitsch and Helder in order to find out what troops were available for moving into 'ustrip. As evidence of the lack of aggressive intentions against 'ustrip, the weakness of the German army at that time was mentioned. Rearmament began in 1936. The plan was to triple the existing seven divisions by 1938 or 1939. In view of the state of German military preparation, Keitel regarded all preparations in advance of the occupation of 'ustrip and Czecho-Slovakia as having no serious implications from a military point of view. (p.9-11)

PREPARATION FOR 'AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'.

He did not recall any plans for an operation against Czecho-Slovakia in 1938. At that time Beck, Chief of the General Staff, and Bruchitsch, Head of the army, reported to the Fuehrer in Keitel's presence in September 1933 on the weakness of the German forces. This meeting took place in Nuremberg on the Reichsparteitag. Beck had a map which he showed to Hitler displaying the forces available to march into the Sudetenland (p.12-13). There was no grand strategy to Hitler's program such as would be suggested by the Hossbach minutes. Things developed from episode to episode and if there was any grand strategy developed he did not know about it. Even after war was declared on 3 September 1939, Keitel asked Hitler if it was planned to convert industry from a civilian basis to a military one, and Hitler said "No" (p.19)