

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Wilhelm Keitel,

By: Mr. T.J. Dood, 31 August 1945 a.m. Nuremberg

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

1. KEITEL

- a. Preparations for war against Russia (p.4,8)
 - (1) Meeting with Ribbentrop (p.6)
 - (2) Discussion with Hitler (p. 7-8)
- b. Attitude toward USA and Japan (p.10-11)
- c. Opinion of dismissal of Blomberg and von Fritsch (p.15-16,23)

2. JODL, WARLIMONT

- a. Discussion with Hitler in 1940 regarding preventive war against Russia (p.5)

WAR AGAINST RUSSIA

In the summer of 1940 there was some discussion of war against Russia but it was turned down because of the fact that it was technically impossible to line up German Forces in the East (p.4). Hitler met with Jodl, Warlimont, and several officers in July 1940 and announced that he was determined to eliminate the threat of Bolshevism by means of a preventive war (p.5). Keitel saw Ribbentrop who re-assured him that Hitler was not planning definitely on war but merely making preparations against necessity (p.6). Shortly afterwards Keitel saw Hitler and explained that war against Russia was technically impossible at that time because of transportation and supply problems. Keitel places the date as being the end of August or the beginning of September. Hitler told Keitel to forget the whole thing (p. 7-8). Preparations were renewed against Russia in December or beginning of January, followed by the issuance of a directive (p.8).

JAPAN AND U.S.A.

Keitel said that the outbreak of war between Japan and the United States came as a great surprise. In the spring of 1941, however, Keitel regarded the attitude of the United States as unfavorable but until late in the fall of 1941, Keitel's only interest was of having Japan declare war on Russia (p.10-11)

DISMISSAL OF BLOMBERG AND FRITZSCH

Keitel referred to the dismissal of Blomberg because of his marriage to a woman not acceptable to the Army. Blomberg was related to Keitel by marriage between their children. Keitel succeeded Blomberg, (p-15). Von Fritsch was removed on a charge of homosexuality but was acquitted when it developed that there was a confusion of names (p-16). Keitel said that there was considerable suspicion that the charges against Fritsch were spurious but Keitel does not think so because he does not believe that the Minister of Justice would have been party to anything underhanded (p-23).