

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of Wilhelm KEITEL

By: Mr. T. J. Dodd, 7 September 1945, p.m., Nuremberg

PERSONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. KEITEL

- a. Explanation of Military action against Russia (p.1-7)
- (1) Russo-German pact of 1939 (p.5)
 - (2) Russia's mobilization against Germany (p.5-7)
 - (3) Russia's intervention in Yugo-Slavia (p.10)

AGGRESSIVE WAR - RUSSIA

The Russo-German Pact of 1939 was consistent with HITLER's foreign policy. As early as 1933 HITLER had stated to the army that his interior program and his foreign policy had nothing to do with each other. However, the war against Russia which began on 22 June 1941 was a preventive war (p.5-7). The threats of Russia against Germany were indicated by Russian concentration on the eastern front in the summer of 1940, political agents sent into Germany under the guise of trade deals, border clashes in Poland, sorties of Russian planes over Germany. German planes flying over Russia had also photographed a concentration of airfields along the Russian-German frontier. Russia also refused to give a direct answer on the question of supplying nickel which Germany needed badly. Russian occupation of Bukowina exceeded original Russo-German agreements. Because of this incident Molotov was invited to Berlin in November 1940, but no satisfaction resulted from the meeting. Therefore, KEITEL states, German troops continued to flow towards the East.

In the spring of 1941 Russian intervention in Yugoslavia was particularly objectionable (p.10). The decision to attack Russia was based on the desire to avoid a two-front war, because it was felt that Russia would speedily be knocked out. It was impossible to reconsider the invasion of England in the Spring of 1941 and there was the prospect of the entry of the United States into the war (p.11-14).