

325-B

October 29, 1945

Dear Mr. President:

^B
 x584 The Secretary of War advises me that General McArthur is now ready to proceed with the prosecution of war crimes such as those consisting of "planning, preparing, initiating, or waging a war of aggression or in violation of international treaties and agreements or of participating in a common plan or conspiracy for any of the foregoing purposes".

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It is my suggestion and recommendation and that of the Secretary of War that Joseph E. Keenan of Ohio be appointed to assist General McArthur, and this recommendation is concurred in by the Secretary of State and General McArthur.

I am sure you know Mr. Keenan. However, for your information he was appointed Assistant Attorney General in 1933, in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. In this capacity he personally prosecuted Machine Gun Kelly as well as other gangsters. He was instrumental in the adoption by the Congress of the so-called racketeering laws. As a reward for his services he was made The Assistant to the Attorney General in January, 1936 (the position now held by James P. McGranery).

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H.S.T."

Original initialed and returned to the Attorney General 10/30/45, elb

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If you agree our plan was to have General ²McArthur announce the appointment so that it would come from the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. From an international viewpoint it would be the appointment of the Supreme Commander rather than the appointment of any one of the United Nations.

Respectfully,

TOM C. CLARK
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The White House

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