

May 2, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

(1) The United Nations War Crimes Commission consists of representatives of fourteen nations. Russia declined to become a member unless she could have sixteen votes and, therefore, she is not a member.

Our representative is <sup>now</sup> Herbert C. Pell. He has practically been recalled on the theory that there is no longer an appropriation for his office.

Our present representative is Colonel Hodgson, who is perfectly satisfactory and should be continued.

The Commission has not been a success. Its chief function to date has been to collect names of war criminals and evidence. On my trip to London, they told me they had about 1500 names. Most of these criminals will be returned to the country of their origin for disposition. They are really not the major war criminals.

The Commission did make one recommendation about setting up a so-called treaty civilian court. Both the United States and Great Britain have unofficially (but not publicly) rejected it as too cumbersome and too dilatory.

In case you are asked at the press conference about this Commission, I would suggest that you reply that it will continue in its function of collecting such evidence as it can against as many war criminals as possible.

*Samuel H. Rosen*