CHARGE NO. 1
ORGANIZED VIOLENCE

Over and above the eight successive charges listed above, the Germans are also guilty of a series of crimes that were limited to no one period or area, but were characteristic of the entire era of Nazi dominance. These crimes, which may best be described as organized violence, represent a unique creation of the Nazi regime. Elaborately planned campaigns were carried out with devastating effect upon the victims and proclaimed as spontaneous outbreaks of just wrath. Two examples illustrative of this technique are the boycott of 1 April 1933 and the pogroms of November 1938.

The boycott of 1 April 1933 constitutes the first overt campaign in the German criminal conspiracy against the Jews. It represented a preliminary test of strength in which the Nazis sought to ascertain how far world public opinion would allow them to proceed toward their goal of eliminating the Jews.

The overwhelming support given the Nazi Party in the March 5,
1933, election gave its leader's a powerful impetus to proceed with
the realization of the Party's program. In the words of the official
announcement of the April 1 boycott, entitled "Reaons for the
Boycott Action," published on 29 March, "the communistion of
the national revolution thereby became a demand of the people."

And the elimination of the Jews from every sphere of German life
had been from the start one of the cardinal points of the creed of
the "national revolution." The boycott of April 1 thus became the
first step in the way of thecreation of German (and ultimately,
European) Jewry.

To the German public and the world at large the boycott was
presented as a necessary retaliatory measure against, first,
unjust Jewish "lies and vilification of downright hair-raising
perversion" in the shape of "atrocities stories," agreed by
"unscrupulous criminals," and directed against Germany, and second,
against the "international boycott" being organized against German
goods by "Jewish intellectual instigators." The boycott was thus
The organisation and execution of the boycott was not left to chance, and for good reason. For as much as the boycott was intended to frighten the Jews of Germany and abroad, it aimed equally as much to demonstrate to the world the power, discipline, and effectiveness of the Party organisation. For that reason there was no need to feign "spontaneity," as was the case during the 1933 pogroms. Since, further, the German leaders decided that the boycott was not to be accompanied by violence to Jews and their property, there was no need for secret instructions, as was the case, again, in 1933.

Accompanying the already cited manifest ("Reasons for the Boycott Action"), which merely stated the reasons for the boycott, was another proclamation entitled "Eleven Points," also published on 29 March, outlining the procedures for the practical and systematic execution of the boycott of Jewish plazas of business, Jewish merchants, Jewish physicians and
Jewish workers. For added assurance that the boycott would be
carried out with the necessary ruthlessness, Julius Streicher was
made chairman of the Central Committee to Combat Atrocity and
Boycott Agitation, and charged with the over-all execution of
the boycott. Streicher, in his turn, issued eight Bulletins,
each containing detailed instructions as to means and measures
to be employed in enforcing the boycott.

In substance, the "Eleven Points" directed that throughout
the country—even in "the smallest villages"—action committees
should be formed and charged with full responsibility for the
execution of the boycott; that it should begin "not in a sporadic
manner, but at one stroke, at 10 a.m., sharp," with SS and SS men
stationed at all indicated places; that the workers should be told
that the boycott was necessary for the "protection of German labor,"
while the rural elements are to be enlightened that the boycott
was "forced on Germany as a "defensive measure"; that "tens of
thousands" of meetings should be held at which resolution were to
be adopted demanding, “for the present,” a paroxysm climax for
Jews in high schools and universities; that no foreign businesses,
including those owned by foreign Jews, should be selected, as the
boycott is “purely a defensive measure against German Jews;” that
newspapers failing to publicize the boycott should in turn be
boycotted thereafter; that all the measures are to be executed
with “complete orderliness and the strictest discipline...not a
single hair of a Jew shall be harmed.”

Streicher’s “Fourteen Points” added that converted Jews
are to be considered Jews: that posters with a black background
and yellow spot (reminiscent of the medieval yellow badge) should
be affixed to all Jewish establishments; that a list of supposed
evangelicals be paraded through the streets. Point 8 specified that
the boycott would continue until its termination is ordered by
the Party. Regulation 9, however, decreed its interruption at
the end of the first day, until 8 April, so as to give the foreign
press time to stop the alleged anti-German agitation. “If this,
however, is not the case,” Gombos told the foreign press on 31
March, “the boycott will be resumed on Wednesday (8 April) at 10
From the standpoint of the German leaders the boycott was an unqualified success. The chief aims of the boycott—to show to the world the Nazis' firm grip on the land, to make the boycott a continuous process, and to strike terror in the hearts of the Jews—have been achieved. The Tagespresse-Zeitung was satisfied to note on 3 April that the boycott brought about "the humiliation of the Jews of Germany." The Nuremberg laws, two years later, largely cast in legal form what had already been in operation.

The American charge d'affaires reported (on 3 April) that "with few exceptions the boycott was carried out without disturbances" in Berlin proper, but that acts of violence had taken place in other cities. Reporting on Central Germany, the American Consul in Leipzig stated that in Leipzig the boycott was carried out on the three days, March 11 and 1 April; and was accompanied by much violence, both to Jewish persons and property. He named many cities in Central Germany in which the boycott was merely a culmination of
acts of physical assault, damage to goods, arrests and extortion that had been in vogue for some months. It should also be noted that the above-cited American diplomatic representatives concluded their reports with an identical observation that, *Argumentative* of the boycott, the Jews of Germany have to all intents and purposes been deprived of "elementary civic rights," and that there was little hope of any improvement in the future. According to the American Consul in Leipzig, the chief purpose, and undoubtedly achievement, of the boycott was to prescribe and stigmatize publicly all the Jews of Germany by making the people aware of the racial and religious identity of their fellow citizens.

That acts of violence against Jews had been rampant prior to the proclamation of the boycott with the tacit approval of the police can be gathered from the declaration made by Göring, then Minister of the Interior of Prussia, three weeks before the boycott (on 10 March)
The Führer are not a defense squad for Jewish stores... They tell me I must call out the police to protect them (the Jews). Certainly, I shall employ the police, and without mercy, wherever German people are hurt, but I refuse to turn the police into a guard for Jewish stores... The nation is armed. For years past we told the people: "You can settle accounts with the traitors. We stand by our word. Accounts are being settled."}

On March 21, 1933, Göring told a representative of the Polizei of Amsterdam:

"It is true that the department stores were attacked. I am certainly opposed to force being used in actions against these undertakings, but I do not see why it should not be permissible to warn people against buying in Jewish department stores."

Public declarations by the head of the Police in the largest State in Germany that the Jews would receive no police protection could only serve as a go-ahead signal for the Party's hooligans.

The American Consul in Leipzig, referring to conditions in Central Germany, wrote that "the persecution and hating of Jews in this region has been systematically and brutally carried out and continued." The attacks, assuming the form of arrests, beatings, extortions, public degradation, desecration of synagogues and cemeteries, while obsequies, still were without central direction.
and coordination. Their over-all purpose was, however, unmistakable: to make life for Jews so intolerable that they would make haste to leave Germany. Restrictive legislation, designed to harass and then, combined with physical harassment, practiced without let-up but not in so violent and concentrated form as to endanger sharply world opinion which still had to be courted, were hoped to be sufficient to cause a mass exodus.

By the fall of 1938 the world situation had changed slightly in favor of Germany. Austria had been absorbed, to the accompaniment of violence against Jews as on scale not hitherto attempted in Germany. More significantly, the rise of Czechoslovakia opened the gates for the conquest of Eastern Europe. Since, moreover, both of these actions were achieved with the concurrence of those very powers whose favor had to be courted up to then, no psychological barrier existed any longer to the execution of the long professed aim, namely the elimination of the Jews from Germany. Physical supremacy in the shape of territorial victories induced simultaneously a
psychological emancipation from Incesto, however slinky, to
world opinion. On 14 December 1938, the British Consul General
in Frankfurt indeed reported to his government that "the rulers
of Germany appear at present to be contemptuous of world opinion."

For the leaders of Germany the provisions aimed had arrived
to deliver the Jews such a massive, concentrated, violent blow,
carrying as much physical and psychological impact, as would cause
them to depart in mass flight. The necessary opportunity was
provided by the death of Von Roth, third secretary of the Paris
Embassy, on 7 November, at the hands of Mochael Goynsnour, a
17-year-old refugee who had become slightly unbalanced from the
tribulations he and his family had undergone. While, admittedly,
self-interest, being totally devoid of scruples, never really believ-
that excess are essential to their nations, hypocrisy
has long been recognized as a useful handmaiden of statecraft—
the tribute that Vice pays to virtue. In 1938 the orders for
the boycott were publicly announced because no violence was to

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take place, the objective being alienation of the Jews and a demonstration of Party strength and discipline. In 1938 violence was to be the supreme aim, and hence the orders had to be secret. Paying, for the last time, their respects to bourgeois virility, the Nazi leaders determined to tell the world that the acts of arson, physical assault, property damage, wholesale arrests, that were scheduled to take place in 10 November, were all "spontaneous," the result of the pent-up but irrepressible indignation of the German masses.

The events of 10 November are well known. In a limited sense, they shook the world. Although the events that accompanied the occupation of Austria were no less violent, undoubtedly it was the burning of the synagogues, carried out simultaneously throughout the country, that gave special edge to the shock administered world opinion. An observer living at the time in Germany believed that the acts of violence were "spontaneous." The patterns was too universal, climaxing universal; burning of the synagogues with
petrol and incendiary bombs at a specific hour; the indifference of the police; the passivity of the fire brigades, which limited their efforts to protecting non-Jewish establishments; destruction and looting of private homes; physical violence; the wholesale arrest of special-age groups and their transportation to concentration camps. Ambassador Wilson (soon recalled by President Roosevelt) called the State Department that he "feels constrained to report that evidence leads to the contrary conclusion," then the "spontaneity" theory given by Goebbels. Reporting from France, the American Consul General stated that there is "sufficient evidence that the destruction was not the work of a spontaneous mob enthusiasm, as claimed by some official authoritaires." In his lengthy report of 21 November, the American Consul in Leipzig described the atrocities in that area as "constituting a mechanism that very probably has had no counterpart in the course of the civilized world... As 3 a.m. November 10, 1938, was unveiled a barrage of Nazi fervor as had had no equal hitherto in Germany, or very likely anywhere else in the world since anarchy, if ever... The whole insatiable affair was organized in such a sinister fashion as to lend credence to the theory that the execution of it had involved studied preparation. It has been ascertained by this office that the plan of 'spontaneous indignation' looked out in Leipzig several hours before news of the death of Von Rath had been broad-
erased at 10 p.m., November 10, 1938. It is stated upon authority believed to be reliable that most of the services was employed in drawing up lists of fated victims. Several persons known to this office were seen at 8 p.m. on the evening of November 9, 1938, that some 'spontaneous' outrage was scheduled for that night sometime after midnight, and several of such persons stayed up purposely in order to witness it."

Reporting from Stuttgart on 12 November 1938, the American

Consul General stated that

"The Jews of Southwest Germany have suffered vicissitudes during the last three days which would seem unreal to one living in an enlightened country during the twentieth century if one had not actually been a witness of their dreadful experience. These actions were carried out by young men and half-grown boys. It was easy to recognize under the civilian clothes of the former trained and disciplined SA or SS men, while in the case of the latter the Hitler Youth uniform was evident in some instances. The young men set about their tasks in most cases quietly and efficiently."

The reports of the above-cited crimes are filled with lengthy

Description of the outrage,

Similarly the British Consul General in Cologne reported to His Government:

"I have been more shocked by the coldblooded and calculated manner in which action was taken than by anything else about the present events. Yes, I am inclined to think that the Peretz knew his German."

Any lingering doubt that the 'spontaneous' acts of burning,
destruction, arrest, maltreatment, deceptions, were the result
of advance, elaborate, specific directions from higher instances.
It is dispelled by the teletype message cited below.

TELETYPE

Flash Munich 47 767 101128 0120 -Chm-.

TO: All Gestapo Offices, to all SS, OA, and all OA.
-Flash, urgent, submit at once to the director (leader) or his deputy.

SUBJECT: Nuisance against Jews this night.

On account of the attack on diplomatic secretary von Benth in
Paris demonstrations against the Jews in the entire Reich are to
be expected this night of Nov. 9/10 1938. To deal with these events
the following directives are issued:

1) The directors of the Gestapo offices or their deputies have to
conduct immediately upon receipt of this teletype by telephone the
regional Part office, Gendarmerie or police - and announce
with them for a meeting to discuss and agree upon the extension
of the demonstration. The regional inspector or commander of the
Regional office is to be called in for the meeting. In the course
of the conference the political leaders are to be advised that the
German police has received from the Reichsleiter SS and Chief of
Police the following directives and that the measures taken by the
political agencies should be in accordance with them:

a) Only such measures are to be taken, which do not
endanger German lives or property (e.g. synagogues
burn only if no fire danger for the neighborhood).

b) Stores and apartments of Jews may be destroyed
but not looted. The police have been directed to
watch over the execution of this order and to
arrest plunderers.

c) In the business section particular care has to be
taken that non-Jewish stores are to be protected
from damage under all circumstances.

d) Foreigners including foreign Jews are not to be
selected.

2) On the condition, that the directives mentioned under 1 are
conspired with, the demonstrations are not to be prevented by the police, but only to be watched with respect to the compliance with the directives.

3. Immediately upon receipt of this typewritten order, the police are to seize all archives in all synagogues and offices of Jewish religious organizations to protect them from destruction in the course of the demonstrations. Of interest is material of historic importance, not recent tax lists, etc. The material of the archives is to be turned over to the regional SD agency.

4. The direction of all safety police measures with regard to the demonstrations against the Jews is in the hands of the Gestapo insofar as orders are not issued by the inspector of the Sicherheitspolizei. For the execution of the police measures agents of the Kriminalpolizei and members of the SS and the Special Commando (Verfügungstruppe) and rank and file SS can be employed.

5. As soon as the events of this night make it possible for the officials concerned, they are to arrest in all districts as many Jews, especially those who can be accommodated in places of arrest. For the time being only healthy, able-bodied Jews who are not too old are to be arrested. After the arrest, the concentration camps in the region are to be contacted so that arrangements can be made for the speedy transfer of the Jews to the camps. Particular care should be taken that Jews arrested in accordance with this directive are not to be mistreated.

6. The provisions of this order are to be communicated to the regional inspectors and commanders of the Ordnungspolizei and the SS, Ober- and Unterschutzpolizei with the statement, that the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of Police has issued these police orders. The Chief of the Ordnungspolizei including the Fire Fighting Police have issued corresponding orders. In the execution of the orders measures closest co-operation between Sicherheitspolizei and Ordnungs Polizei is to be maintained.

The receipt of this typewritten order is to be confirmed by the directors of the Gestapo or their deputies through typewritten addressed to the Gestapo Head Office of the SS Gruppenführer Schaller.

Hauptsturmführer
30 Gruppenführer.

Identical typewritten orders were dispatched throughout the country.

The above documents require no commentary or elaboration.

Forewarning events to come in Poland, in some of which the
Jews were evicted from their homes at night, made to carry straw to the synagogue, and the rabbi forced to set off the fire. In September the Jews were assembled to watch the synagogues go up in flames. Three days later they were taxed with 10,000 marks in payment for the removal of the wreckage.

The London Times stated on 11 November that "almost all the synagogues in every German town — very few were overlooked — were set on fire and destroyed." On the basis of eye-witness reports alone it has been calculated that 418 synagogues went up in flames, but that is probably an underestimate. The extent of the damage wrought to private homes and business establishments cannot be estimated.

On 12 November 1938, a special decree ordered the Jews to pay for the clearance of all damaged property and simultaneously cancelled all insurance claims.

From the viewpoint of the German leaders the November pogroms were a total success. When the pogroms started, the list of the remaining Jews became one of utter and ameliorated deprivation.
Their physical assets had been confiscated or destroyed and their religious shrines consumed by fire. Worst yet, practically all men had been transported to the concentration camps of Buchenwald, Theresienstadt, and Sachsenhausen which had then been constructed. In fact, the worst periods in the history of the camps were the years 1938-1940. It is in these camps that the SS executioners and soldiers received their actual experience, their real training, with Jews as guinea pigs. They provided the facilities for the special schools for torture that were founded later. From the ranks of the Hitler youth who took part in the multitudinous acts of violence and murder in the interim years emerged the huge cadre involving hundreds of thousands of professional killers. Without this nucleus of trained and tried executioners and soldiers the vast army needed to exterminate the Jews of Europe could not have been formed in the brief period preceding the attack on Poland.

Real violence had, then, from the very start been purposeful, calculated, planned, directed, and coordinated. The German murderers had to learn by doing. Jews constituted their school of experience.
1. Exhibit D: Voolkischer Beobachter, 30 March 1933.
2. Exhibit B-2.
3. Voolkischer Beobachter, 30 March 1933.
5. Exhibit D.1.
8. Ibid., p. 50.
14. German 6120, Germany No. 2 (1939) p. 27, also page 16 on events in Vienna.
15. Exhibit D.11, cf. also German 6120 p. 18.
18. For conditions in 1938 cf. German 6120, Germany No. 2 (1939)