A. Scope and Purpose

Forced labor was part of the program of the biological war introduced by Hitler. Its objective consisted primarily in reducing the number of populations in the occupied territories, and using their manpower, and also in the case of the Jews, as a stepping-off point on the ultimate way to annihilation.

Forced labor, therefore, began by forcibly separating families, confining to special labor camps, and separating men from women. The food rations were such as to keep their victims alive to enable them to carry out their work. Lack of freedom, long working hours, lack of fresh air, and the unsanitary conditions were designed for the purpose of the extermination of the Jews. The Jewish laborers were to be exploited to the utmost, after which they were exterminated. Those who survived were designated for extermination in concentration and labor camps in Germany itself and in occupied countries, especially Poland.

So far, no statistical data are available as to the percentage of tortured and killed Jewish laborers, out of the entire number
of Jews killed and tortured. That is why the concentration of forced labor is already connected and intertwined with other crimes—perpetrated by the Germans.

As a rule forced labor began with deportation and ended in death chambers established in concentration camps, or by trava
tures in labor camps. However, this crime has its specific characteristics which stand out from the number of other crimes committed by the Germans.

3. The Planned Progress

One of the direct consequences of the anti-Jewish measures of the German Government was the occurrence of thousands and thousands of Jews condemned to idle existence and the vain search for some kind of work— even the simplest and least manual rejected by Germanfoobar. However, a new factor appeared to influence the situation.

as the military operations were approaching, the need for manpower became increasingly urgent. Goring, as Chairman of the Four-Year Plan Committee, using his dictatorial power, in
tited Minister of Economy Walter Funk to take energetic measures
for the creation of a large reserve of workers. The press
was resounding with chorus for the inclusion of Jews into
the production process. "It is not a question of Jews being
unable to find work in Germany ... it has now become a
question of Jews not being allowed to be idle."

Though barely in need of manpower and while utilizing
Jews for the most difficult labor, the German government
continued its policy of segregation and discrimination even
with regard to this category of the Jewish population.

In March, 1934, the President of the German Institute
of Labor Pleasement and Unemployment Insurance declared:

"It is not in the interest of the state
to leave the labor power of employable unem-
ployed Jews unused, and perhaps even to have
to support them from public funds without re-
covering any service in return. An effort must
be made to employ all employable and employ-
able Jews as soon as possible and to combine
therewith the services of German workers for
unrest and important state political projects.

Employment of Jews shall take place in fields of enterprises of building construc-
tion, soil cultivation, etc., separately
from others....

I therefore request you immediately to
influence public and private enterprises in
your district to provide work. It is
assumed that contractors and their enterprises
will not suffer disadvantages by the employment
of Jews in the name of this decree who
are German subjects and stateless Jews who are
capable of work."

After the outbreak of hostilities Jews were sent to work in factories, mainly in chemical and metallurgical industries, but here too, measures were taken to segregate them from Aryan workers.

Though working under the harshest physical and moral conditions with a minimum remuneration, and under discriminatory laws, Jewish laborers still had some kind of personal freedom. To be sure, their labor was compulsory (Arbeitseifer). Forced labor (Arbeitserziehung) for Jews was introduced in Germany after the outbreak of hostilities against Poland, and in Poland at the end of October 1939, when Jewish laborers were transformed into slaves.

6. Method of Implementation

At the end of September 1939, the Gestapo had worked out a detailed plan of dividing the entire Jewish population into labor battalions supervised by SS men (Herald Tribune, September 30, 1939). At the same time, in occupied Poland, a decree of October 26, 1939 was published concerning the
Introduction of compulsory labor for the Polish population in occupied Poland. It was foreseen that a special decree would be issued with regard to Jews. (Richtlinienblatt des Generalgouvernements, 1939, p. 6).

On the same date a decree was published concerning the introduction of forced labor for the Jewish population of the General Government, in which it was provided that for this purpose the Jews were to be assembled in forced labor battalions.

By virtue of this decree, on November 12, 1939 the order was promulgated which regulated forced labor in the territory of the General Government for all Jewish inhabitants from 14 to 60 years of age. The labor term was fixed at two years in special labor camps, with a reservation that it could be prolonged if the educational purpose had not been attained.

It was also ordered that the "craftsmen, especially owners of shops, should deliver their entire equipment...handicraft, tools and accessories of those subject to forced labor still, after induction, be at the disposal of the Forced Labor Service." Failure to register or report for forced labor carried a prison
penalty of ten years. The same punishment applied to the
members of Jewish Councils for failing to register Jewish
inhabitants for forced labor. The regulations of registra-
tion were to be applied to male Jews from 12 to 60 years
of age (Verordnungsblatt des Generalgouvernements, 1937, p.
316).

By comparing this decree with the decree of October 26,
1939, which provides for compulsory labor for Poles, the
difference between compulsory and forced labor becomes quite
obvious. Basically, this difference consisted in the follow-
ing:

(a) Poles had the right to select their occupation and
continue labor contracts. For that purpose they were to re-
ceive work permits (Order concerning the Introduction of Work
Permits, December 20, 1939, Verordnungsblatt des General Gou-
vernements, 1939, No. 76, p. 377).

(b) Polen had no proven permanent employment useful to
the government; shall not be called for the performance of
public work service.
(c) Any labor for which the payment for their labor was foresseen "at equitable rates."

(d) The welfare of persons subject to compulsory labor and their families should be protected as far as possible, e.g., in hospitals. For Jews forced labor was prescribed as a punishment. They were deprived of receiving work on the basis of labor agreements and were confined to special labor camps. The decree does not mention anything as to their wages; they were deprived of their working equipment (tools), and hard labor up to ten years was provided for any infraction of the provisions of this decree. The work of Jews ensured the character of slave labor, the chief feature of which was lack of freedom in selecting work and in concluding labor agreements. The nature of slave labor is even more emphasized by the decree of the Chief Director of SS and Police in the Government General for the Occupied Polish Territories Eichmann, January 20, 1942, which assigned the Jewish Councils to the task of the conscription, delivery and control of Jewish laborers.
The Jewish Councils were charged to select and for the
Labor battalions. Often they were required to fill impossible
Labor quotas.

The Jewish Councils were compelled to send workers to
serve barracks for Jewish labor camps, and to furnish con-
sumables with work clothes, shoes and food until they reach-
their destination.

Under this system three labor groups were then intro-
duced: labor battalions, labor camps and rural camps. The
first were situated in the vicinity of the towns in which
the Jews lived; the second were placed in definite centers
where large public work projects had to be carried out and
the laborers were brought to those camps for an extended
stay; the last were concentration camps designed for those
who evaded regular forced labor, or in any other way violated
the forced labor laws.

D. Forced Labor Bases for Deportees

By the end of December 1942, many deportations to Poland
had already begun. Simultaneously, the Reich Labor Ger-

published semi-official comments to the decree regarding
the employment of Jews, whereby the author, L. Kugelwsp, legal expert, stressed that:

"The German people's sound racial feelings will not allow unrestricted participation of the foreign workers in the social improvement of the Third Reich. It is necessary to emphasize their racial inferiority as compared to the German race. Members of alien races are merely subjects of the German Reich, and as such, not entitled to the privileges enjoyed by German workers."

According to this decree (October 21, 1941) Jews were barred from the German working community, and thus excluded from all legislation protecting German workers. They could not work as apprentices, they were not entitled to special pay for work on Sundays, holidays, or overtime work; they received no pay for time off caused by illness or childbirth. Jews were excluded from old age security, unemployment relief was limited to the lowest maintenance; they could be discharged on 24 hours' notice. They were forced to work in segregated groups. They had to accept whatever.

job was assigned to them by official employment agencies, regardless of the nature of the work or its location (cf. I. Dvorkin Belsz, November 3, 1941; Moszkow Belsz, November 5, 1941).

Soon all over Germany Jewish labor service camps were created. Near Berlin separate barracks were built for Jews working on road gangs under SS supervision. Jews employed as factory workers were segregated under Nazi scorn and, in many places, forced to wear yellow armbands.

In France the deportations of Jews to the labor camps were announced by the ordinance of General Wawrzyniec von Stülpnagel:

"A large number of criminal Jews-Polish elements will be deported to forced labor in the Eastern territories."

In the other occupied countries similar measures were taken by the occupied powers. Jews were deported to Poland where they were located in 27 camps. In the district of

1) On the basis of facts given by the Gestapo Belsz, labor battalions and camps were set up in the following localities: Hand construction in the vicinity of Emain, Skutin, Skawa, Susz, Zepel, Zamosc, Lublin, Bialystok, Brest, Lemberg, Opatow, Lodzi, Bialystok, Bialystok, Bytom; a trolley line from Bialystok to

(continued next page)
Rumors said the special camps were set up from which the
internese were sent to work at drainage of the Pripyat Iwreben.

By the end of the summer, the internese were to have drained
and prepared for cultivation 5,000 acres of swampland. 

20,000 Jews were sent from Germany for that purpose. In
order to create a cadre of supervisors of these slaves,
the Nazis sent 3,000 Ukrainians to special schools for
training in the art of the extermination of those who could
no longer work. The drainage work went on constantly in
Poland, and later the Nazis drove the remnant of the Jews
together with their families to drain the Danube Swamp under
the supervision of the Gestapo. With regard to this work,
reports have been received from Switzerland to the effect
that:

1) reinforced from previous page: Sychoi, waterways in the
vicinity of Bory, Velycho, in the Kobrin dis-
trict, in the Zhukovka-Kovno valley, in the vicinity of
Vrublevka, on the River Brama near Lida, on the Zhukovka
bridge construction on the River Narew near Przemyśl,
the River Biakor Przesna near Słomczyn, Laskwia in Eldam,
Descemian sugar factory in Lystokowo, factories in
Zagreb, Przemyśl, Oława, Krosno, Przemyśl, Stara Kujawska,
Krosna; iron and steel mines in Bytów near Slavutych-
Skupin, mines in the vicinity of Pulawy, in long near
Samołyk, Lyżwodzie, Rudniki, Zaręby Kocubowskie, Pawlowo-
Dzieli, Oswiecim Wilcza skała, Milczenko, Luchda.
"Hundreds of thousands of Jews are dying every day from malnutrition and overwork.

A continuous stream of new arrivals fills the ranks of the Jewish slave laborers. The

concentration camps are being enlarged in connection with the fortifications the German military authorities are constructing in various sections of occupied Poland."

By the end of 1943 there remained only about 100,000 Jews in the labor camps of Poland. They were all concentrated in special labor camps in Galicia, Silesia, and in the 
Lodz district. They were subject to military discipline and had to work seven days a week. They were given one hour rest during the day and were not permitted to sleep more than five hours during the night. During their "free'' hour of rest they were permitted to take walks, but not more than two persons together.

The Jewish labor camp was cut off from the outside world. No cultural life was allowed there. The slightest

Infraction of camp regulations was punished by death. The

1) Zytglogge, Nov. 30, 1944.

2) S.Client, Nov. 30, 1943.
internees were treated in the most inhuman fashion. To
the superiors they represented as individuals, but numbers
under which they were identified. Jews were accused not
only for infractions of camp regulations, such as walking
on the sidewalk instead of the pavement, unauthorized
change of position in a factory, absence from work;
reasons for killing were also a lingering illness or
loss of working capacity. This is testified to also
by Jan Hersch who cites the following words of one of
the leaders of the Jewish underground:

"Those who are capable of
any effort are used for general labor.
The others are murdered by cards. First
come the sick and aged, then the unemployed,
then those whose work is not directly
connected with the German war needs; finally,
those who work or reside in trains, in facto-
ries. Ultimately, they turned to kill us all." 1)

In addition, there were no provisions for regular
salaries in favor of the laborers, while the employer had
to pay a fee to the finance department of the local German
authorities; long working days (over 13 hours), barred

from all social benefits; pitiful conditions of shelter
and food; cruel exploitation of child labor.

I. Original Characteristics of Forced Labor

On September 25, 1926, Germany, along with many other
countries, signed the Slavery Convention in Geneva. As
is evident from the preamble, the purpose of this Con-
vention was "to prevent forced labor from developing into
conditions analogous to slavery." Slavery was defined as
follows:

"Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers
attaching to the right of ownership are exercised" (Art. 1 § 1, p. 1)

Considering this convention,

the High Contracting Parties

recognize that recourse to compulsory or forced
labor may have grave consequences and undertake
each in respect of the territories placed under
its sovereignty, jurisdiction, protection subsidiary,
or tutelage, to take all necessary measures to
prevent compulsory or forced labor from
developing into conditions analogous to slavery
(Art. 2).

The German Government and the occupation authorities accordingly

and deliberately did everything in order to transform forced
Labor into slavery.

With regard to specific characteristics of slavery, the Convention stresses in the first place the manner of engaging for forced labor (capture). The manner used by the Germans was a ferocious one, violating personal freedom of the individual. Jews were shipped to unknown destinations and upon arrival interned in camps. Work was assigned to them. As a rule wages were not paid them. They were given food provisions in special camps set up in the camps. No definite working hours were fixed. German authorities put aid as to the availability of manpower, delivering it "wholesale" to organizations in need of manpower.

The right of life and death was in the hands of German officials who not only made use of it, but also grossly abused it cruelly, just as the slaves were treated in times of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Contrary to the Hague Convention, forbidding the confiscation of private property, Jewish workers were deprived of their tools.
Forced labor, in the sense assumed on the strength of decrees promulgated by the German Government and the occupation authorities, constitutes a crime not only from the viewpoint of international law, but also from the viewpoint of provincial Criminal Code.

The chapter on "Crimes and Violations Against Personnel"

Section 14 of Article 225 provides that:

"Whoever, through cunning, threat or violence, brings an individual under his control in order to place him in a helpless position, or to press him into slavery or the military or naval service or foreign service shall be punished by imprisonment for life or death (Häftung oder Todesstrafe)."

(Inhibit 4)
JUDICIAL FORCED LABOR

Introduction.

Driven from their economic positions, Jews began to work in the fields, formally still not bound to them — physical labor. But even here they encountered difficulties. Most factories and workshops were barred to them by the policy of the Arbeitseinsatz. Thus they remained the kind of work which the Germans accepted only very occasionally, such as street cleaning, repairing of roads, loading and unloading and other kind of unskilled labor.

The majority of these works had to be carried out at a great distance from the usual place of living. Therefore, contractors set up camps where workers could stay over nights. In 1937 an ordinance to the effect that Jews and Greeks were forbidden to share camps with Aryans.

Consequently Jews — after a hard day of labor — had to walk about 10 kilometers, even if still had used bicycling, and start working after a tired and long walk. This meant for growing day by day, though such a transportation was...
provided for Aryans. It must be added that distribution cam-
pons deliberately sent Jews to the remotest places.

JEWISH COMMUNITY LAGOS

As the military operations were approaching, the need
for manpower became ever increasing. For this reason, the Jewish
of the Near-Year Plan Committee, using his dictatorial
power, decided to mobilize of working Jews to take energetic measures
for the protection of a large reserve of workers. Thus, the press
was resonating with defense of the inclusion of Jews into
the production process. It is not a question of Jews being
made to do the work in Europe. . . . It has now become a
question of Jews not being allowed to be idle.

JEWISH COMMUNITY Though badly in need of manpower
and while utilizing Jews for the most difficult labor, the
German government continued its policy of segregation and
discrimination even with regard to this category of the
Jewish population.

1) Yitzhak Neuman, "Die Lage juedischer Schwerarbeiter,"
Leipzig, November 11, 1938.
2) 'Die Juedische Gemeinde,' December 23, 1938.
In March 1939 the President of the Forest Institute of Labor Planning and Employment Measures declared that employment of Jews shall take place in fields of enterprise, building construction, and agriculture, separately from others.

After the outbreak of war Jews were sent to work in factories, mainly in chemical and metallurgical industries, but here, too, efforts were made to segregate them from Aryans.

By the end of December 1942 already began mass deportations to Poland. Simultaneously, the Reich Ministry published semi-official accounts to the decree regarding Jewish workers. It was stated that the foreign people's social feeling will not allow unprepared parts of the foreign workers in the social improvement of the Third Reich. It is necessary to emphasize...
their racial inferiority as compared to the German race. Members of alien races are merely pro-ôngs of the German batch, and as such, not entitled to the privilege enjoyed by German workers.

The name of the legislation of the Bavaria concerning the Employment of Jews of the date of October 24, 1931 enacted by Dr. Jungel for the Ministry of Justice, summed this principle into effect.

According to it, Jews were barred from the German working community, and thus excluded from all legislation protecting Arya workers.

They could not seek an apprenticeship; they were not entitled to special pay for work on Sundays, holidays or overtime work; they received no pay for time off caused by illness or childbirth. They were excluded from old age security; unemployment relief was limited to the lowest maintenance; they could be discharged on 24 hour notice; they were forced to work in segregated groups. They had to accept whatever job was assigned to them by official employment agencies, regardless of the nature of the work or the location.

(From a World Telegram, November 25, 1931)

Some all over Germany Jewish labor service camps were created.
forced labor

In the decree of October 26, 1939, concerning the introduction of conscription labor for the Polish population in the occupied Poland, it was foreseen that "a special decree could be issued with regard to Jews" (Subsection 2, Section 1, Verordnung über das Generalgouvernement, 1939, p. 4).

By virtue of this decree, on December 22, 1939 the order was promulgated which introduced the territory of the General Government for all...
Jewish inhabitants from 14 to 60 years of age, forced labor. The labor term was fixed at two years in special labor camps, with a reservation that it could be prolonged if the educational purpose had not been attained. It was also ordered that the "craftsmen, especially owners of shops, should deliver their entire equipment... craft, tools and necessities, of their subjects in forced labor should, after induction, be at the disposal of the Forced Labor Service." Failure to register or export for forced labor carried a ten-year prison penalty.

The same punishment applied to the ancillary of Jewish Councils for failing to register Jewish inhabitants for forced labor. The regulations of registration was to be applied to male Jews from 17 to 60 years of age (Verordnungsblatt des Generalgouvernements, 1939, p. 116).

By comparing this decree with the decree of October 26, 1939, which provides for compulsory labor for Poles, the difference between compulsory and forced labor became quite obvious. Basically, this difference consisted in the following:

(a) Poles had the right to select their occupation and conclude a labor contract. For that purpose they were to receive work cards (Order concerning the Introduction of Work Cards, December 30, 1939, Verordnungsblatt des Generalgouvernements, 1939, p. 116).
The welfare of persons subject to compulsory labor and their families shall be protected as far as possible. For does forced labor was practiced for as a punishment. They were deprived of receiving work on the basis of labor agreements and were confined to special labor camps. The decree does not mention anything as to their wages; they were deprived of their working equipment (tools), and hard labor up to ten years was provided for any infringement of the provisions of this decree. The word of does assumed the character of slave labor, the chief feature of which was loss of freedom in selecting work and in concluding labor agreements. The nature of slave labor is even more emphasized by the decree of the Chief Director of S& and follows in the Government General for the Occupied Polish Territory. The Karachi, January 28,
1945, who assigned the Jewish councils in the rank of the conscription, delivery and control of Jewish laborers.

The Jewish councils were charged to select men for the labor battalions, often they were requisitioned to fill impossible labor quotas.

The Jewish councils were compelled to send workers to erect barracks for Jewish labor camps, and to furnish conscripts with work clothes, shoes and food until they reach their destination.

Under this system three labor groups were then introduced: labor battalions, labor camps and penal camps. The first were situated in the vicinity of the towns in which the Jews dwelt; the second were placed in definite centers where large public work projects had to be carried out and the laborers were brought to these camps for an extended stay; the last were concentration camps designed for those who owed regular forced labor, or in any other way violated the forced labor laws.

At the end of 1941 the deportation of Jews from occupied Europe to so-called labor camps began. In France these deportations were announced by the decree of General de Lattre de Tassigny.
Large number of criminal Nasho-Poleschik elements will be deported to forced labor in the Eastern territories.* In the other occupied countries similar measures were taken by the occupied powers. Jews were deported to Poland and there they 1) were located in 37 camps. In the district of Baranovichi, two special camps were set up from which the internees were sent to work at drainage of the Pripyat Marshes. By the end of the summer, the internees were to have drained and prepared for cultivation 6,000 acres of swamp land. 50,000 Jews were sent from Germany for that purpose. In order to create a cadre of supervisors of these slaves, the Nazis sent 3,000 Ukrainian to special schools for training in the art of digging and filling of those who no longer could work. The drainage work goes on constantly in Poland, and later the Nazis drove the remnant of the Jews together with Poles to drain the Kraziat swamps under the supervision of the Gestapo.

1) On the basis of facts given by the German Hydrotechnics Labor battalions and camps were at work in the following localities: Real construction in the vicinity of Kloniki, Skretina, Stechly, Szydlino, Laskovo, Dzurys, Ostrow, Siliski, Glina, Grabowo, Piekary, Lipta, Mikulov, Bytom; a trolley line from Bialystok to Styry; waterways in the vicinity of Nowy Korczyn, Nowy Korczyn. In the Lublin district, in the Zdolnie-Giesanow Valley, in the vicinity of Subotowo, in the River Smoina near Wadowice, on the Wisniow bridge construction on the River Pilica near Pyzdrycow, the River Gierzwyshe near Podlasie, Namysl in Wislok, Namyslowy sugar factory in Lyszkowice;
With regard to this work, reports have been received from Switzerland to the effect that hundreds of these Jews are dying every day from malaria and undernourishment, but a constant stream of new arrivals fills the ranks of the Jewish slave laborers. The camps are being drained in connection with the fortifications the German military authorities are constructing in various sections of occupied Poland.2)

By the end of 1943 there remained only about 100,000 Jews in the labor camps of Poland. They were all concentrated in special labor camps in Galicia, Silesia, and in the Lublin district. They were subjected to military discipline and had to work seven days a week. They were given one hour rest during the day and were not permitted to sleep more than five hours during the night. During their "free" hour of rest they were permitted to take walks, but not more than two persons together.

The Jewish labor camps are cut off from the outside world.

No cultural life was allowed there. The slightest friction


2) Foreign Press Review, No. 115, 1944.
of camp regulations was punished by death. The internees
were treated in the most inhuman fashion. By the superiors
they represented as individuals but numbers under which they
were identified. Jews were killed not only for infractions of
camp regulations, such as walking on the sidewalk instead of
the pavement, unauthorized change of position in a factory,
absence from work; reasons for killing were also a lingering
illness or loss of working capacity. This is testified to also
by Zeev Korczak who tells the following words of one of the leaders
of the Jewish underground:

"Those whose muscles are still capable of any effort are
used for forced labor. The others are murdered by gaza.
First come the sick and aged, then the unemployed, then
those whose work is not directly connected with the Ger-
man war needs, finally those who work on roads, in trades,
in factories. (Ultimately, they intend to kill us all.)" 2)

The other conditions under which forced labor was performed
are the following:

(a) Wage The regulations regarding Jewish forced labor
indicate no obligation on the part of the Germans to pay wages.

Workers on special construction projects received subsistence
allowances and salaries below an existence from the prices the
Germanss chose to pay for finished articles, but at least 20% of the Jewish forced laborers are not paid by the Germans. The decree concerning remuneration to Jewish labor in the General District of Latvia (Germanische Zeitung am Osten, March 11, 1942) provided that the Jews shall not receive any wages. Employers of Jewish labor shall pay a fee to the Finance Department of the competent district commission. No extra fee shall be paid for overtime work on Sundays, holidays or at night.

(b) Working Time: Twelve to thirteen hours a day by virtue of the ordinance.

Jewish workers were barred from any of the social welfare agencies. They enjoyed no statutory hours.

(c) Shelter and Food: Workers are quartered in unheated barracks, huts or stalls where elementary hygienic facilities are unknown. Food rations did not exceed the bare subsistence level. A typical day's diet consists of black coffee and bread for breakfast and supper, bread and potato soup for dinner.
The Purpose of Forced Labor

Forced labor was part of the program of the biological war introduced by Hitler. Its objective consisted primarily in reducing the number of populations in the occupied territories and in exterminating Jews in Germany itself.

Therefore, forced labor began by forcibly separating families, confining to special labor camps, and separating men from women. The food rations were such as to keep them alive and to enable them to carry out their work. Lack of freedom, long working hours, lack of fresh air, and the most unsanitary conditions were so systematically designed for the purpose of the extermination of the Jews. The Jewish laborers were to be exploited to the utmost, after which they — like exhaust steam — were to be used up. The extermination in concentration and labor camps in Germany itself and in occupied countries, especially in Poland.

As far as statistical data are available as to the percentage of tortured and killed Jewish laborers, out of the entire number of tortured and killed Jews, that is why the connection in forced labor is closely connected and intertwined with other
crime perpetrated by the Germans.

As a rule, forced labor began with deportation and ended in death chambers established in concentration camps, or by torture in labor camps. However, this crime has its specific characteristics which stand out from the number of other crimes committed by the Germans.

On September 25, 1926, Germany signed the Slavery Convention in Geneva. As can be deduced from the preamble, the purposes of this Convention were "to prevent forced labor from developing into conditions analogous to slavery." Slavery was defined as follows: "Admitting that forced labor may easily exceed the limit of the permissible, the High Contracting Parties recognize that recourse to compulsory or forced labor may have grave consequences and indirectly, such in respect of the territories placed under its sovereignty, jurisdiction, protection, sovereignty, or trusteeship, to take all necessary measures to prevent compulsory or forced labor from developing into conditions analogous to slavery." (Art. 1)

The German Government and the occupation authorities deliberately did everything in order to transform forced labor into slavery.

With regard to specific characteristics of slavery, the
Convention stresses in the first place the manner of engaging
for forced labor (capture). The manner used by the Germans
was a forcible one, violating personal freedom of the individual.
Jews were shipped to unknown destinations and upon arrival in-
ternalized in camps. Work was assigned to them. As a rule wages
were not paid then. They were given food provisions in special
containers set up in the camps. No definite working hours were
fixed. German authorities put aside to the availability of
ammunition, delivering it "elementis" to organizations in need
of ammunition,

The right of life and death was in the hands of German
officials, who not only made use of it, but also greatly abused
it shamefully; just as the slaves were treated in times of "feba
Thot's Oath." Contrary to the Hague Convention, forbidding
the confiscation of private property, Jewish workers were de-
prived of their tools.

Forced labor, in the manner ascertained on the strength of
decrees promulgated by the German government and the occapation
authorities, constitutes a crime not only from the viewpoint
of international law, but also from the viewpoint of pre-

Criminal Code.

The chapter on "Treason and Violation against Personal Freedom" of Article 234, provides that "Whoever, through cunning, threat or violence, brings an individual under his control in order to place him in a helpless position, or to press him into slavery or the military or naval services of foreign countries shall be punished by imprisonment for kidnapping." 9

By acts of violence and threats of death, Germans deported the Jews. Taking advantage of their defenselessness, the Germans deprived them of their freedom and forced them to do hard labor.

The crimes of the Germans were not confined to this alone. They killed thousands who lost their working capacity. Guilty of these criminal acts were:

1. The entire central German Government;
2. The High Command in Germany and occupied territories;
3. Governors-General in Poland; Governors in all occupied but countries; and
4. Perpetrators of the crimes in places of residence; and
5. Prosecution authorities who, having of the commission of crimes did not bring the guilty before justice.