PART III
Responsibility

1. Introductory Note

In this third part of the paper, we indicate those who bear
responsibility for the conception of the conspiracy to annihilate
the Jewish people and for the execution of its various criminal
phases. Due to the whole German political, administrative and
military setup and the typical division of powers introduced by
the Nazis, the responsible persons are to be found on three levels:
Party, Government, and Nahmarks. It thus follows:

(1) The Party structure and the Nazi administration
were organized by the top Nazi leaders in such a manner that the
leadership in both was held, in almost all cases, by the same per-
sons. Consequently, the names of those responsible appear two
and even three times for the same area because of the close ties, one
might even say identity, of personnel of Party, Government and
even Nahmarks.

(2) Emphasis is to be laid on the fact that responsibility
for the conception and execution of the plan to annihilate the Jewish
people lies, by its very nature, not a divisible but a joint one.
Those who belonged to the top leadership of the Party, of the
 Nazi German Government, and of the Wehrmacht machine are jointly
 and severally responsible for the whole set of crimes committed
 in the execution, step by step, of the criminal preconceived
 plan. Even where no direct connection is shown between a de-
 finite person and a specific charge, each person is, nevertheless,
 to be held responsible as a conspirator.

(3) The joint responsibility of the top leaders for
 the performance of the criminal undertaking as a whole does not,
 naturally, exclude the individual responsibility of the direct
 perpetrators, whatever their rank in the Party, Government, or
 Wehrmacht.

(4) The names given are followed by an indication of
 the charge or charges for which they are held responsible. It
 should, however, be borne in mind that these lists of names of
 major perpetrators are far from exhaustive. We are convinced that,
 through special knowledge and material in the hands of the various
 governments, particularly that gathered by the competent military
 authorities of the United States, Great Britain and U.S.S.R. alone in
 the European theatre of operations, these lists will be completed,
 especially as far as the personnel of the Wehrmacht is concerned.