Brigadier General Telford Taylor
Chief of Counsel
Nuremberg

My dear General:

It is hardly necessary to stress the particular interest Jews have in the prosecution of Germans responsible for the recent holocaust, as a result of which over 6 million Jews perished at the hands of Germans and their minions. This mass murder of unheard-of extent was unique not only in its inhuman brutality but also in meticulous planning. It is widely known and does not require repetition that the extermination of all Jews of Europe in well-defined stages was planned by the highest officials of the German Reich and of the Nazi Party in advance and that there was hardly any one among them who did not participate directly in this plotting, let alone had no definite knowledge thereof. The most incredible of these infamous decisions, involving the final solution of the Jewish problem, was taken by the top officials of all German ministries, on January 20, 1942, in Große Kahnsaal. The minutes of this meeting, discovered some time ago and deposited — to the best of our knowledge — with the Office of the Chief of Counsel, disclose that the following persons participated therein:

Reinhard Heydrich, SS-Obergruppenfuehrer
Dr. Meyer, Gauleiter
Dr. Leibbrandt, Reichsstatthalter
Dr. Stuckart, State Secretary
Neumann, State Secretary
Dr. Freisleben, State Secretary
Dr. Buchner, State Secretary
Lithauer, Under State Secretary
Klopscher, SS-Oberfuehrer
Kritsinger, Ministerialdirектор
Hofmann, SS-Gruppenfuehrer
Kueller, SS-Gruppenfuehrer
Eichmann, SS-Gruppenfuehrer
Dr. Schenck, SS-Oberführer, Commander of the Security Police
and the SD in the Government General

Dr. Lange, SS-Sturmbannführer, Commander of the Security Police
and the SD for the General District Lublin, as deputy
of the Commander of the Security Police and the SD
for the Reich Commissioner for the Lublin

The crimes committed against Jews since the beginning of the
war found strong condemnation at the Nuremberg trial of the major
war criminals. Being bound, however, by the provisions of the
Charter, the International Tribunal could deal with crimes against
humanity only to the extent to which they were connected with the
waging of aggressive war. This limitation, even under the most
liberal interpretation, must have restricted the Tribunal in dealing
with the crimes against the Jewish people in its totality and to
the proper extent. The connection between aggressive war and
crimes against humanity was dropped in Control Council Law 10.
Trials by American military courts on the basis of this law have
brought to justice a number of Germans responsible i.e., for crimes
against Jews. But none of these trials dealt, because of the
persons involved and the character of the cases prosecuted, with a
group of persons who, being at the top of the Nazi hierarchy, actually
planned the destruction of the European Jews, and under whose
direction and supervision the extermination of these millions was
carried out.

We realize that it may be impossible now to initiate a special
Jewish trial. However, there should be no legal or practical impediment
in bringing to justice, within the framework of the present plans and programs, those of the chief criminals responsible for the
Jewish vehicle who are in American hands. Among these are the above-
mentioned persons and the highest officials of Section IV/84 of the
Gestapo which dealt directly with the extermination of Jews. Although the Chief of the Gestapo, Muller, and his chief assistant, Eisemann, are missing, two of the collaborators of the latter could be brought to justice, as Krusey is said to be held in a Austrian camp and Girsik is in Nurenberg.

On November 11, 1947, the indictment of nineteen high German officials in the so-called "ministers" case, was announced on eight charges, including the waging of aggressive war, plundering of subjugated territories and enslavement of defeated peoples. Among these criminals only one of the Germans who participated in the January 30, 1942 meeting is to be found, namely, Wilhelm Stuckart, former State Secretary of the Interior. While some of the rest are dead or missing at least four others are known to be in jail in Nurenberg, namely, Erich Neumann, Georg Leibbrandt, Otto Hoffman, and Erisinger. As the persons indicted are of the highest rank, and the trial deals among others, with crimes against humanity, it would lend itself excellently to the inclusion of the highest German officials responsible for crimes against Jews.

According to authoritative pronouncements, the United States authorities resolved some time ago virtually to discontinue the prosecution of German war criminals by American military courts by the end of this year. Only a few trials of such persons will reportedly be conducted until the middle of the coming year, while it has apparently been decided to leave practically all further indictment and adjudication of these criminals to the Germans. This trial, therefore, the last chance to bring these culprits to justice. In view of the well-known attitude of the Germans it could obviously not be expected that these or any other Nazis responsible for the death of millions of Jews will be dealt with adequate
Our contention is that it is the sacred duty of the Allies, who have repeatedly and solemnly proclaimed that the crimes against the Jewish people will not be condoned, to do their utmost to bring the culprits to justice. We therefore appeal to you in the name of the Jews throughout the world to order the extension of the "ministrers'" case by including among those prosecuted, top Nazis who are mainly responsible for the Jewish catastrophes and are in Allied hands, especially the persons enumerated above, i.e. Neuman, Leibhant, Hoffman and Kritzinger and, if possible, Kroen and Girzik. In this way the trial could also serve as a token of retribution to the German people for their crimes against Jewry.