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The lack of qualified personnel and changes in location and requirements of using agencies calls for the reexamination of present document distribution procedures. This shortage of personnel, which materially reduces the effectiveness of Document Centers and restricts detailed listing and study of documents, has also affected the using agencies. While formerly it was possible for the using agencies to take out large collections of documents on loan, in order to determine and locate papers of interest, it is no longer possible for many of these agencies to do this without withdrawing documents from circulation for considerable periods of time. Consideration must be given to possible methods of pre-screening of collections, which would permit a more rapid circulation among using agencies.

It is also necessary for this conference to consider the overall problem of the denial of certain archives, records, and papers to the Germans. Serious consideration must be given to plans for the organized destruction of papers which possess no value for the Allies, and which must be denied to the Germans. We must be cognizant at all times of the final disposition of documents required for study in Germany which must not be permitted to fall into German hands after the departure of occupation forces. In connection with this we wish to explain Group C.C., USFET and War Department action in asking for the complete withdrawal from quadrupartite consideration of a proposed directive for the handling of captured documents. This directive which was based on the suggestion of certain British archivists would have "frozen" most documents "in situ" and seriously delayed the program of final clean-up in Germany. In asking for the withdrawal the American member of the council was requested to state that the American Government was reconsidering the question and proposed to submit another paper at some future date. The question was then coordinated with the War Department and they were asked to prepare a draft of State, War, Navy Coordinating Committee views on documents which should be destroyed, or to which the Germans were to be denied all future access. This paper, which is to be incorporated into theater views, is to be submitted for quadrupartite action.

All consideration for changes in standard operating procedures must nevertheless bear in mind American responsibility for implementation of existing Anglo-American agreements and quadrupartite commitments which must be complied with at all times.

Plan for Conference.

The Conference will be organized into a Governing Committee and appropriate Sub-committees. Sub-committees are to be formed to deal with individual items of the agenda. Preliminary committees designated by the temporary conference chairman have assembled pertinent data on the major agenda topics for the convenience of sub-committees dealing with these subjects. The interim reports are intended as a guide for the sub-committees. The Governing Committee, composed of representatives of the War Department, G-2, United States Forces, European Theater, Director of Intelligence, Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.), and members of the Army and Austria Document Centers, will review Sub-committee reports and recommendations. These will be incorporated into the final report and recommendations of the conference. Representatives at the Conference will then obtain concurrence or comments from their respective organizations. The plan will then be carried into execution by appropriate action of the Theater Commander and the A.C. of S., G-2, War Department.

S. F. GRONLICH
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Conference Chairman

Der Beweis für die konferenzmäßig organisierte Vernichtung deutscher Beute-dokumente.