

SECRET

Main Headquarters,
Control Commission for Germany
(British Element),
B.A.O.R.

3 December, 1945

To: Commander, 1 Corps District,
Commander, 8 Corps District,
Commander, 30 Corps District,
Chief, Political Division
Chief, Economic Division
Chief, Finance Division
Chief, I A and C Division
Chief, Legal Division
Chief, PW and DP Division
Chief, Manpower Division
Chief, Transport Division
Chief, R D and R Division
Chief, PR and ISC Group
Major-General Intelligence

For the Notes on the
Occupation of Germany.

BHM

Subject: The Evolution of Government in the British Zone

1. It is part of accepted Allied policy that the period of Military Government in GERMANY shall be restricted to the shortest possible time. It will be succeeded by a system of control on a civilian basis. The change will be conditioned by the progress made in three directions - demilitarization, including basic economic demilitarization, denazification and the foundation of a democratic system of administration among the Germans themselves.
2. It is equally our policy that the administration of the British Zone should change from a military to a civilian basis as quickly as possible. The same conditions will apply to this change and the first two of the conditions mentioned above have already been satisfied to an appreciable extent. The essential condition is the third, namely that the foundation of German local administration on a democratic basis should have been established.
3. The process of change has already gone some way in our Zone by the fusion of Military Government and the Control Commission. This has automatically implied the introduction of many civilians into our administrative machine.
4. It is my intention that this process of change should continue progressively and gradually on a careful programme so that, when the time comes for the overall change in GERMANY as a whole, our organisation shall already have become suitable for incorporation without further drastic alteration into the new scheme of administration. In succeeding paragraphs I give four Phases in this programme.
5. PHASE I:
This Phase is to start at once. The timings of the various steps involved will be decided by Corps District Commanders in consultation with the Chief of Staff (British Zone) and will be reported to me.
(a) Corps District Commanders will deal with their Military Government responsibilities through their Military Government staffs.

The Corps staff proper will not take a part in Military Government matters except firstly in regard to those questions which are the function of the Army Division, e.g., disarmament and disbandment, and secondly to render assistance to Military Government from the resources at the disposal of the Corps as may be determined by the Corps District Commander.

//(b)

- (b) The clear-cut way to carry out (a) above is to do away with the Military Government Staff at Corps District Headquarters so that the Corps District Commander should deal with Military Government matters through his "P" Detachment Staff. G.O.C. 30 Corps District has already made arrangements in this connection which are very satisfactory. In the case of 1 and 8 Corps Districts there are complications due to the fact that there are two "P" Detachments in each of these Corps Districts. I appreciate that so long as Phase I lasts there is a special need for co-ordination in these cases. It must however be realized that these "P" Detachments will eventually deal direct with Headquarters Control Commission, who will be responsible for co-ordination of all "P" Detachments. Having regard to the fact that the Ruhr is divided between Munster and Dusseldorf, special machinery for co-ordination between these two "P" Detachments may be necessary after Phase I has passed. To solve these problems I wish Chief of Staff (British Zone) to assemble a working party on which the Corps staffs concerned will be represented and to put forward a solution for my approval.
- (c) The Intelligence staff at Corps District Headquarters, other than the purely military element, will be progressively transferred to the Headquarters of the "P" Detachment. The same complication obtains in this connection as regards those Corps Districts which have more than one "P" Detachment under command. The working party referred to under (b) above will take the question of Intelligence staffs also into consideration.
- (d) Certain functions of a strictly technical nature will be removed from the responsibility of Corps District Commanders who will, however, retain the right to be kept informed on them and to intervene if the interests of the security or overall administration of their Corps District is affected. In one case this has been done already, namely coal production. The detailed application of this principle in regard to other functions will be the subject of instructions issued by the Chief of Staff (British Zone) who will consult Corps District Commanders before issuing them.

6. PHASE II:

This involves the selection and training of Regional Commissioners who will replace Corps District Commanders as regards their civil administrative functions in Phase III.

7. The men selected will be attached first to Headquarters Control Commission and subsequently to Headquarters "P" Detachments to learn their job. They should be made to take over executive work on behalf of the "P" Detachment Commander or as acting for him when he is absent on leave etc. It is essential that during this Phase the standing of these officers vis-a-vis the German authorities shall be built up. They will not necessarily be appointed eventually to the Province in which they have been trained.

/8. PHASE III:

8. PHASE III:

At this stage Corps District Commanders cease to be the Military Governors of their Corps Districts. They will have no responsibility for civil administration other than as Commanders of troops which may be required to act in support of the civil power or to assist the civil administration with the administrative resources at their disposal. This question of assistance is important. At present Military Government relies a great deal on the assistance which it obtains from the troops. This is one of the reasons why Phase III cannot take place immediately. The degree of assistance which will be required when the change does take place will be considerably less than it is now, but the need for some assistance will remain and Corps District Commanders will have a responsibility to furnish it so far as their resources permit.

9. A Regional Commissioner will be appointed at each Provincial Headquarters including HAMBURG. The Commander of the "P" Detachment will become his Deputy. The present Deputy Commander of the "P" Detachment will disappear from the Establishment.

10. The bulk of the (Movements) staff at Corps District Headquarters will be transferred to the Provincial Detachment.

11. No other changes in the personnel of Military Government Detachments will be involved in this Phase.

12. I am not prepared at this moment to fix the date on which Phase III will take place, but I shall aim at putting it into force in April 1946.

13. PHASE IV:

This involves the gradual transference of the personnel of Military Government Detachments from a military to a civilian status and a reduction in the size of these Detachments at lower levels. The reason for such reduction is that the principle of civil control implies an exercise of control over German administrations at higher levels, while at the lower levels no control will eventually be exercised other than such inspection as may be necessary to ensure that instructions given to the higher echelons of administration are being faithfully executed by the lower.

14. It is not necessary to fix any time for this Phase at present. It will be carried out by the Regional Commissioners after they have assumed their responsibilities.

15. I am holding a Corps District Commanders' Conference on the 14th December. An opportunity will then be provided for discussing the detailed implications of the plan which I have set out above. It must, however, be clearly understood that the general framework of this plan is a matter on which I have already made my decision.

16. Finally I want to emphasize that the essence of the change from Military Government to civil control does not lie in the substitution of civilians for soldiers in administrative appointments. It is desirable that the principal appointments should be handed over to civilians because this emphasizes the fact of the change and has a psychological importance. The real essence of the change, however, is that under Military Government we govern our Zone through the Germans. Our government depends on the Commander-in-Chief and his Corps District Commanders and it is supported immediately by our military forces.

/Civil control.....

Civil control, on the other hand, means that the Germans govern themselves, subject to control and supervision by us, that our administration is headed by someone other than the Commander of the troops and that military forces are regarded as a reserve to be used in support of our administration in emergency only.

17. I have thought it important to emphasize this point because it is not my intention that officers who are doing a competent job in Military Government now should automatically be replaced merely because they are not civilians.

B. L. Montgomery.

Field Marshal,
Military Governor & Commander-in-Chief,
British Army of the Rhine.

Copy to:-

EW C-in-C Germany
Air C-in-C BAFO
H.E. Sir William Strang, Political Adviser to the C-in-
Chief of Staff (British Zone)
Chief of Staff (B.A.O.R.)