

This file contains:

- an instruction dated 31 May 1945 to draft a Cabinet paper to be submitted by the Secretary of State for War, followed by ...
- a June 1945 Draft of that paper, and ...
- its Annex 1 - A copy of a 31 May 1945 telegram from Montgomery to the Secretary of State.

Other more detailed annexes are not attached.

31st May, 1945.

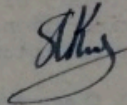
To: Brigadier, Secretariat

The Deputy Military Governor has asked for a draft paper for submission by the Secretary of State for War to the Cabinet to be prepared for his consideration. The general lines on which this paper should run are as per the notes below, viz:-

1. Now that I (Secretary of State for War) have taken over the Commission and it is to be deployed in the near future in Germany alongside 21 Army Group to form the Commander-in-Chief's staff, I have undertaken a preliminary survey of the problem.
 2. The immensity of the task.
 3. If this task is to be successfully carried out, I shall need the assistance in every way of all my colleagues in the Cabinet, and their help in giving the highest priority to the collection and maintenance of a suitable team to undertake the task.
 4. The Control Commission has been raised under the general control of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and excluding the requirements of the three service ministries which are represented in the Naval, Military and Air Divisions, the approved establishments based on the requirements as far as can be foreseen now amounts to Owing to the clash of priorities as between the requirements of the Control Commission, reconstruction in England and the needs of the fighting services, it has not been possible to date to complete the Commission with all its personnel, and to date only some 35% of those posts which are allotted as civilian have been filled. There are also certain major deficiencies in the more senior posts such as It is a matter of great urgency that these deficiencies should be made up.
 5. The service personnel in the nine civil divisions represent -% of the total. Of those posts allotted to serving officers, -% have been filled by Naval officers and -% by RAF officers. It will be seen from these figures that the bulk of the service personnel in the Commission has been found by the Army. *Additional personnel from other services small*
 6. Further, the Army has found the greater proportion of the Allied Military Government personnel which has been allotted to 21 Army Group for the detailed carrying out of H.M. Government's policy in Germany and the control of the Germans.
- The position as regards Dominion personnel, viz. Canadian, South African, Australian and New Zealand. Suggest that the Dominions should be asked again to assist in every way possible so that the Commission of Control can be fully representative of the British Commonwealth of Nations, of the three services and the civilian elements of this country.
7. It is clear that control in Germany must continue, whether it is in the form of military government or a civil Commission, for some very considerable time. Under existing release arrangements, the number of military officers who can be made available will steadily decrease. The civilian personnel which has been recruited for the Commission has under existing arrangements only been taken on for one year. It follows, therefore, that unless some steps are taken in the fairly near future to constitute some form of control service which will attract the best type of individual, and offer some form of guaranteed employment, it will become impossible from some time in the year 1946 to ensure that H.M. Government's policy is in fact put into effect in Germany. Thus request that my colleagues will assist me in having examined as early as possible the formation of a properly constituted control service of a nature suitable to the task in hand.

2.

The above are purely notes, and should not be followed in their wording. I should be grateful if the first draft of this paper could be produced prior to the Deputy Military Governor's meeting with the Chiefs of Divisions on Monday.



Major-General,
DC(M).

DRAFT

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SECRET

COPY NO:.....

WP(45)

June, 1945

WAR CABINET

CONTROL COMMISSION FOR GERMANY (BRITISH ELEMENT): OUTSTANDING
REQUIREMENTS

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR

Introduction

1. The Control Commission for Germany (British Element) has been built up, during the period of planning, under the aegis of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The planning period is now at an end; the Commander-in-Chief and his Deputy have been appointed, and the moment has arrived when the British Element should take over in Germany the active responsibilities for which it has been preparing. I have, therefore, as previously agreed^x, assumed responsibility for the British Element.
2. Having made a preliminary survey of the situation, I wish to draw the attention of my colleagues, first, to the nature of the task confronting the Commander-in-Chief, his Deputy and their staff, and secondly, to certain deficiencies in the British Element staff and the measures required to remedy them.

The Task

3. The Allied Control Commission will have between 60 and 70 million people to govern. About a third of these will be the direct concern of the British Commander-in-Chief and his staff, who will at the same time share the collective responsibility of the Allies ^{for} the overall control of Germany. [The German administration has largely broken down, and the problem of restoring this administration is intensified by the extreme difficulty of replacing Nazi officials who must be removed from office.] It will be a major task to provide sufficient food and employment in the British zone (which is normally a food deficit area) to prevent famine and serious disturbances later in the year, and plans must be made and put into execution early if adequate harvests are to be obtained in 1946. In addition to these primary military government

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Immediate Problems in the British Zone

4. The Commander-in-Chief and his Deputy are, however, faced immediately by a two-fold task; firstly, the control, disarmament and disbandment of the German armed forces in those areas; and secondly, the military government of the areas at present occupied by the British forces.

5. This is at present being undertaken by Headquarters, 21 Army Group. Among the urgent problems to be faced are the disposal of some 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ million German prisoners of war, 700,000 German wounded, over a million displaced persons, and about a million German refugees. // The provision of sufficient food and employment for these numbers, in addition to the normal civilians resident in the British zone (which is normally a food deficit area) so as to prevent famine and serious disturbances later in the year is in itself a major task and plans must be made and put into execution early if the 1945 harvest is to be gathered in and if adequate harvests are to be obtained in 1946. In addition to these problems and the normal military government responsibilities within the tactical zone now occupied by British forces, Headquarter, 21 Army Group, has other heavy commitments - civil supplies for North-West Holland, the release scheme, repatriation of Allied prisoner of war and re-deployment consequent upon the withdrawal of troops required for the Far East.

6. It is therefore a matter of urgency that the expert staffs of the Control Commission built up in London should be deployed in the British zone to take over their part of the responsibilities hitherto carried in the British zone solely by Headquarters, 21 Army Group.

Immediate Inter-Allied Problems in Germany

7. The second aspect of the Commander-in-Chief's task - namely, the establishment in conjunction with the other Allied Commanders-in-Chief of the Allied machinery of control in Germany - is also becoming urgent. Many questions requiring early inter-Allied discussion (for example, transportation, inter-communication, economic and food supply questions, all of which need centralized handling for the whole of Germany, have to be settled in the near future.

8. For this reason, too, in order that we may be ready to play our part in establishing the inter-Allied machinery without delay, the British Element should be built up to its full strength and deployed at once, and Field Marshal

// These figures include Denmark and Holland and are very approximate.

Montgomery has sent me a telegram (Annex 1) stressing the urgency of the need.

Present resources and deficiencies of the British Element

9. The personnel requirements of the British Element, so far as they can now be foreseen (excluding the three Service Divisions), amount to approximately six thousand^x. Owing to the low degree of priority hitherto accorded to the British Element, and the competing claims of the fighting Services and of reconstruction in this country, it has not to date proved possible to complete the staffing of the British Element, and it has at present (excluding the Service Divisions) only some 61 per cent of the personnel required.
10. The major deficiencies including a number of senior appointments^β lie with the appointments allotted to civilians, of which less than one-third have to date been filled. The Army, which has provided practically the whole of the Civil Affairs/Military Government personnel allotted to 21 Army Group for work in the field, has also found some 92 per cent of the officers and approximately 100 per cent of the ORs out of the total Service personnel authorised in the British Element (less the three Service Divisions).
11. Not only, therefore, is the load carried by the War Office as compared with the Admiralty and Air Ministry disproportionately heavy, but the large resources of expert functional personnel of the type required by the Civil Divisions of the British Element now at the disposal of these Ministries, has not been fully tapped. This is a matter which I consider should now be rectified.

Proposals for meeting present deficiencies

12. It is thus clearly a matter of urgency - if the Commission is to have a fair chance of carrying out successfully its vital and extremely difficult task - that these deficiencies should not only be met but that the British Element should be built up to full strength with thoroughly well qualified staff. To this end I shall need the assistance of all my colleagues. The cooperation of all Government Departments, of professional organisations and of industry will be necessary to provide staff not only in the numbers but also of the calibre required; I would therefore ask for a high degree of priority to be accorded to the British Element of the Control Commission.
13. The Dominions Governments have already been invited to help us, and

^x This figure includes service and civilian staff of all ranks, and covers "housekeeping" personnel other than signal and transport companies.
^β Annex II.

have been given details of the staff we need, though it has not been possible to allot specific appointments to the Dominions. Results have been disappointing, and there are on the staff only about a dozen Dominions officers and a small number of civilians. The Canadian Government have so far been unwilling to supply any more officers in addition to the seven already posted to the British Element.

I suggest that the Dominions Governments should again be invited to assist us, so that the possibilities of obtaining the best qualified staff may be widened and the British Element of the Control Commission for Germany may be really representative of the British Commonwealth.

Future of the Control Commission for Germany (British Element)

14. It is clear that control in Germany must continue, whether in the form of military government, or, later, of a civil High Commission, for a very considerable time; ten years has been accepted as a reasonable estimate. As a result of the release scheme, the military staff of the British Element will waste rapidly, and the number of military officers who can be made available as replacements will decrease. The civilian staff who have been recruited for the British Element have been engaged for only one year's service overseas. It follows, therefore, that unless steps are taken in the near future to constitute some form of control service which will attract individuals of the necessary qualifications it will - from, say, mid-1946 - become extremely difficult to ensure that adequate staffs will be available to put H.M. Government's control policy into effect in Germany. This question of continuity and replacement is, I consider, of the highest importance for the future, and I would ask my colleagues' assistance in framing, as early as possible, a scheme for a properly constituted control service adequate to the tasks to which we are committed in Germany.

Conclusion

15. I accordingly invite my colleagues to agree:-

- (a) that a high degree of priority should be accorded by all Departments to providing, without delay, well qualified staff to meet the present deficiencies of the British Element: in particular, having regard to the major contribution already made by the Army, additional Naval, R.A.F. and civilian personnel are needed, so that the British Element may be a well-balanced

and representative staff;

- (b) that the Dominions Governments should be pressed to assist in every possible way, so that the British Element may be truly representative of the British Common wealth;
- (c) that the senior appointments listed in Annex II should be filled as a matter of urgency;
- (d) that action should be taken at once to frame a scheme for a properly constituted control service, with terms of service which will attract the best candidates, so as to ensure that H.M. Government's policy of control in Germany can be continuously carried out.

Copy for Lt Gen Weeks

JA

OPY.

FROM: EXFOR MAIN
TO: WAR OFFICE.

292030B

119/C-in-C TOP SECRET and PERSONAL from Field Marshal MONTGOMERY
for SECRETARY OF STATE (.) for the proper discharge of my
responsibilities for control of GERMANY Control Commission
staffs must be built up to full strength as matter of urgency
(.) am doing all I can to fill military appointments on Control
Commission establishments soonest possible from my own resources
but suitable personnel are limited (.) request you to give all
possible priority in making available such additional military
personnel as I may require (.) there are however large numbers
of appointments for which suitable technical and administrative
personnel can only be filled by civilians from Government depart-
ments or from civil life with co-operation of departments concerned
(.) hope HMG at your instance will appreciate real urgency of this
requirement and give it highest priority.

If liable to be
intercepted etc.

DOP MOST IMMEDIATE
(Authy. Lt. Gen. Weeks)

(Sgd) N.H. BURDETT,
Capt.
P.A. to C of S.



Gen Kelly to file

Copy sent

*Chief Staff Office (Brigade)
Mr Updeley*

ambly