

Subject: Report of the Film Working Party
on its meetings of October 23rd and 29th, 1946

Meeting of October 23rd:

In conformity with the instructions of the Information Committee, the Film Working Party definitely accepted the proposal submitted by the U. S. delegation for the production of the documentary film on the Nuremberg trials.

Paragraph II of the project gives rise to renewed discussion, and the delegates agree on the following modification of the text:

The sentence "the Reichsmark production costs be totalled and distributed among the members on a pro rata basis according to the number of theaters in each zone" is modified to read: "according to the number of prints required for normal distribution".

The delegates are of the opinion that if necessary it is incumbent upon the Information Committee to obtain the approval of the Political Directorate for the production of the Nuremberg film but that in the meantime the practical work should be carried on in order not to delay the production of the film.

The delegates agree on the draft of a press release proposed by the U. S. delegation.

Upon modification, the text accepted is as follows:

A documentary film depicting the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials will be produced under quadripartite auspices for distribution among the German people and the world at large, the Information Committee of the Allied Control Authority announced today.

The official film will present the story of the Nuremberg trials as a factual document for the furtherance of international cooperation and in the interest of world peace. Every effort will be exerted to avoid any emotional aspect connected with the fates of the 22 Nazi leaders whose fate was decided by the International Military Tribunal on 1 October.

While the film will be intended primarily for the people of Germany, its historical and moral significance will earn it a permanent place in the archives of the world.

Production of the film will be supervised by a quadripartite documentary film working party, appointed by the Allied Control Authority, with instructions that the film be completed and ready for distribution by 1 January. Film to be utilized in the documentary has been assembled from the archives of the four Allied Powers.

The information Committee announcement stated that the principal objective of the film will be to explain to the German people the reason for the trials, the method of democratic juridical procedure and the factors involved in the court's verdicts and sentences. The picture will be released in Germany by the Allied Control Authority. It is proposed that each of the Allied Powers will release the documentary in its own country and that distribution to all other countries will be supervised by the United Nations.

This pictorial history of the Nuremberg trials will show briefly the Nazi method of aggressive warfare, of harsh occupation and the

inhumanities of the concentration camps. It will provide pictorial refutation of the testimony which was presented by the Nazi leaders, some of whom have been executed. It also will illustrate the democratic system of providing a fair and impartial trial of those accused of the world's greatest crimes against humanity.

"It will stand as a warning," the Information Committee statement emphasized, "to anyone who in the future might attempt to join in preparing for aggression. It will uphold the spirit of world peace."

(The last paragraph to be left out or replaced by a new text, at the request of the British delegate.)

Meeting of October 29:

The Film Working Party met to discuss censorship of new German film production.

The Working Party agreed that a list of principles should be set up jointly by the four delegates, so that any film not violating the same could be distributed in the four zones. (It is emphasized, however, that it is only a question of making the distribution possible and not obligatory, the question of distribution having been postponed for later decision.)

The principles must be made known to the producers so as to enable them to take them into consideration when producing their films.

1. The Chairman having remarked that the term "censorship code" would not be entirely exact in its mode of application, since imperative instructions are to be given for the production, the members of the Committee agree on the term "production code".
2. The code is to comprise after modification and additions the censorship principles already in force for former German films already produced (Minutes of the Information Committee meeting of 27 May, 1946).

The delegates agree on the following principles:

German films newly produced must not:

- glorify ideology of Fascism, Nazism or racial distinction,
- glorify or idealize war or militarism,
- politically subvert or pervert German history,
- glorify or idealize the German Army,
- see derogatory or uncomplimentary or to ridicule Allied or other peoples, their government or their political or national leaders,
- deal with German revenge,
- ridicule religion or insult the religious feelings or attitudes of other religions, and also not propagate Nazi views concerning religion,
- glorify or idealize the thoughts and/or acts of German leaders whose opinions or actions or political philosophy are imperialistic at the expense of others,
- might tend to disrupt unity among the Allies or seek to evoke distrust and hostility against any Occupying Power,
- employ authors, scenario writers, directors and performers only in accordance with applicable laws of Control Council.

The proposal of the U. S. delegate to include the following principle is rejected:

No film should be produced which could effect public morals or create among the spectators a certain sympathy for criminal acts.