

DOENITZ SAYS U. S. WAS FEARED AS FOE

Asserts Hitler Did All Possible to Prevent Our War Entry —Defends U-Boat Tactics

NUREMBERG, Germany, May 8 (AP)—Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz told the International Military Tribunal today that Adolf Hitler had been so anxious to keep the United States out of the European war that he had overruled Doenitz' plans for mining North Atlantic lanes carrying lend-lease supplies to Britain.

Doenitz sought to show that the German Navy had respected the rights of neutrals except in cases of "mistakes." Doenitz, who took over from Hitler and conducted surrender negotiations a year ago, said that the "political leadership" had insisted on avoiding any incidents with the United States at sea before Pearl Harbor.

"A 300-mile safety zone was even granted to America by Germany when international law called for only a three-mile zone," he declared. "I suggested mine fields at Halifax and around Iceland, but the Fuehrer rejected this because he wanted to avoid conflict with the United States.

"When American destroyers in the summer of 1941 were ordered to attack German submarines, I was forbidden to fight back," Doenitz said. "I was thus forced not

to attack British destroyers for fear there would be some mistake."

Doenitz testified that he was simply a "professional soldier" doing his duty, that he was an order-taker and not a planner of aggressive warfare. He inaugurated unrestricted U-boat warfare only after Britain had armed her merchantmen and made them a "menace," he added.

He said that at the outbreak of the war the Germans had had only thirty to forty U-boats, of which only a third or fewer could be used actively at any one time. The Navy had to stop work on all capital ships, except those near completion, and concentrate on building submarines, he said.