

Seven Nazis in Spandau Prison at Service; Hess and Others Together First Time in Year

BERLIN, Dec. 24 (AP)—Seven top cronies of Hitler who were sentenced to prison instead of the gallows were allowed to be together today for the first time in a year. Behind the walls of Spandau Prison, these seven sole inmates of a fortress built to jail 1,800 were assembled by guards of four nations and permitted to hold religious services for an hour. Traditional Christmas songs echoed through an improvised chapel.

The seven were convicted by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg in October, 1946. Others of their fellow Nazi leaders were hanged—except Herman Goering, who killed himself in prison. The seven here, serving terms from ten years to life, are:

Rudolf Hess, once Hitler's deputy; Walter Funk, once president of the Reichsbank; Konstantin von Neurath, once Foreign Minister; Baldur von Schirach, who forged the Hitler Youth; Albert Speer, the Munitions Minister; Karl Doenitz, the Admiral who was named in the dying days of the Third Reich to negotiate the surrender, and Erich Raeder, builder of the Nazi fleet.

Their prison is one of the last places in which four-power action still operates among the Allied victors of World War II. Every move the seven make is watched

by Russian, American, British and French soldiers.

The tension between East and West in this post-war era has reached to the guards who watch Hess and his cohorts.

The Soviet guards abide strictly by the letter of their instructions. During the month they are in charge—each power takes turns—strict silence prevails at all times and none of the prisoners dares to break it.

When Western guards are in charge, the former Nazi leaders venture a remark or two to each other if they happen to pass in a corridor.

The Russians are so strict that one once reported an American guard who, he thought, was trying to talk to Hess.

Now that winter is here and there is no outside gardening for the prisoners, the seven see each other only when they line up for meals. They get their trays, go back to their cells and eat in solitude.

The prison is located in the British sector and has a staff of 452 persons. Once each month a prisoner may receive a visitor.

Hess is gaunt and gray. His conduct seems no different from the others, in contrast to his self-imposed insanity of the trial. Speer, 45, and Schirach, 39, hold up the best because of their fewer years.