

DOENITZ HINTS BID TO RETAIN POWER

Broadcast to German People
Implies His Willingness to
Continue at Post

By **JOHN MacCORMAC**

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, May 8—With the formal laying down of arms on all fronts at midnight tonight, the Germany that Adolf Hitler said would last a thousand years ceased to function as a political entity and left a vacuum that will be filled only by the Allied Military Government.

The situation differs from that after the First World War in that the legal standing of Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, self-styled Fuehrer of the new Reich who ordered its surrender, is highly ambiguous. Doenitz told the German people in a broadcast today over the Flensburg radio:

"The foundation on which the German Empire was built is a thing of the past. The unity of State and party no longer exists.

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The New York Times

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Originally published May 9, 1945

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The party has disappeared from the scene of its former activity. With the occupation of Germany power has passed into the hands of the occupation forces. It depends on them whether I and the government formed by me will be able to continue in office.

"If duty commands me to stay in my office, then I shall try to help you as far as I possibly can. If duty commands me to go, then this step, too, shall be of service to our people and our empire."

Nothing is known of such a government beyond the appointment of Count Lutz Schwerin von Krosigk as Foreign Minister. That Doenitz' government exists only in theory and not in fact was acknowledged by the action taken by Sweden, Spain and Switzerland in breaking relations with Germany.

Actually, Germany ceases tomorrow to have an independent existence. Her government, army leaders and fighting forces alike become prisoners of war. Her property and credits in foreign countries become the possessions of the Allied Control Commission.

In London it is reported that Doenitz' pretensions to speak on behalf of Germany are being examined in the light of his record as the organizer of the U-boat war. Although never a party man in the sense in which Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels or Heinrich Himmler was, Doenitz stood close to Hitler and in recent months had been mixing more in political affairs.

Himmler Believed With Him

LONDON, May 8 (U.P.)—Despite Doenitz' pronouncement, dispatches from Allied Headquarters in Paris said that Himmler and Hermann Goering were believed to be with Doenitz in Flensburg. Doenitz, it was said, has gathered the remnants of the High Command in Flensburg, where a semblance of Government was carrying on, notwithstanding the fact that the area is technically under the command of Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

There was no indication what role Doenitz would play in the occupation of Germany. It was said, however, that, if he were not permitted to remain in office, he

would probably not be treated as a war criminal but as a defeated commander in chief.

Russian View Contrary

A Moscow radio commentator, I. Yermasheff, branded Doenitz a war criminal equally guilty with Hitler and Himmler and demanded death for all the top Germans. The Associated Press reported.