

WHITNEY HARRIS: Mr. Chief Prosecutor, my name is Whitney Harris. May I add my congratulations to you, sir, on your election to this high successful office and every success in fulfilling it.

As you know, I was a trial counsel on the staff of Justice Robert H. Jackson at the trial of the major German war criminals in Nuremberg in 1945 and '46. Prior to that time, I served with the Office of Strategic Services, OSS, in the investigation of war crimes in the European theatre. I had established my offices on Saint James; Justice Jackson had his offices on Mount Street. Colonel Robert G. Storey, who was Jackson's executive trial counsel, established a similar office in Paris where he collected incriminating German war documents, primarily through the American Extraditionary Forces. I was working primarily through the British forces.

So we got to Nuremberg, we put our documents together in a document room, and they were translated into Russian and French and English, and they were dually categorised and made available in a manner useful for attorneys preparing trial briefs.

Prior to this time, Justice Jackson had planned to conduct the trial as we normally conduct a common law trial in the United States, that is, through witnesses supplemented with documents. But when he found that we had this great collection of documents, he changed the proceeding and we conducted the trial primarily through documents supplemented by witnesses.

The result is that we completed this trial over a period of nearly a quarter of a century, with 22 defendants, in a period of 10 months, and the record established has been irreputable. No one has every really challenged any part of the record of the Nuremberg trial, and essentially that is true because of the documentary evidence that we produced.

I'm sure that you have already considered, Mr. Prosecutor, Chief Prosecutor, your documentary centre. But I can urge you, sir, that in the interests of saving time, expediting your trials, and also saving costs of funds, that one of the best things that you could do would be to establish a sophisticated document centre at this time, collecting documents which may relate to prosecutions you are considering, so that when the trials are being prepared, the trial counsel will have ready information at their fingertips to proceed in an expeditious manner.

Thank you, sir.