

Address for the Defence

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Mrs. President, members of the Court -

This Court has been convened under no longer unique but still peculiar circumstances. You have assembled in Germany, a country recently conquered, to pass judgment on charges against a soldier of our army - on charges based on the complaints of German people. You are prepared to employ democratic principles for who else but people of a democratic belief would dare try a man under these conditions? Certainly, no followers of a dictatorship would. I strongly uphold the teachings of democracy but at the same time I feel it my duty, in my present position to point out the dangers which face you and urge you to consider them carefully.

We are still at war with Germany. True, open warfare has ceased but a subtle, more cunning battle rages. Its seeds were sown long before our occupation, ~~but~~ ~~fatally~~ ~~soil~~ planted by Nazi propaganda and finding fertile soil in the minds of the gullible but crafty German people. This warfare is succeeding. General Eisenhower has stated in the press that we are forced to relax our non-fraternization order. More and more of our soldiers are being imprisoned; are being removed from the front line of our battle for peace because of German inspired, German complained of, indiscretions. Our soldiers, who have known the spontaneous friendship of French, Dutch and Belgian, who have suddenly been plunged from the tremendous strain of an ordeal where life and death were closely allied to this let-down period of relaxation and mental readjustment are being taken advantage of by the German women. They know well that we have been ordered to ignore them and they are taking great delight in making the soldier's life uncomfortable - taping their feminine wiles to the full - in the streets, on bicycles, on the lonely country lanes. And we have the deplorable situation of the soldier taking the full brunt of the punishment while the German civilian who has been taught to hate us, to think of us as mere slave material goes unpunished.

In the 21st Army Group Pamphlet "Your Future Occupation" our leaders tell us we cannot trust the German people, that they are liars. Yet we take