

SECRET

C.56(1)
21st December, 1944.

UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL FOR A MODIFICATION OF THE SYSTEM
NOW IN USE FOR THE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE IN RESPECT
OF WAR CRIMES.

Decisions and Recommendation adopted by the
Commission on 20th December, 1944.

1. The Commission recognises that the National Offices established by the Governments are the bodies primarily concerned with collecting evidence regarding war crimes.
2. As regards the modification of the internal organisation of the Commission :
 - (a). An official with experience of criminal work should be added to the staff of the Commission for the purpose of examining charges before they go before Committee I. His functions would be to draw the attention of the National Offices to any additional information in the possession of the Commission, to assist the Committee by calling attention to points requiring consideration, and generally to help in the work of preparation and consideration of cases and in the drawing up of the Lists.
 - (b). It would be desirable to provide accommodation in the Commission's office for members or their representatives desiring to work there.
3. It is recommended that in view of the increase in the number of cases which may be expected, and of the further fact that in many instances the work of the National Offices will be carried out from their own countries, and not from London, close contact between the Commission and the National Offices should be maintained, where necessary, by the appointment by the Governments of officials for the purpose, or in some other appropriate way.
4. In view of the developments contemplated in the preceding paragraph, the Commission decides that a Central Investigation Officer be appointed at the headquarters of the Commission for the purpose of assisting the National Offices at their request in the investigation of war crimes, of collecting evidence which is available to the Commission in order to transmit it to the National Offices and of co-ordinating evidence.

The Central Investigation Officer will be directly responsible to the Commission.