

and unanimously adopted by the European Advisory Commission at a meeting held on 1st May, 1945.

Representative of the Government of the United States of America on the European Advisory Commission :	Representative of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the European Advisory Commission :	Representative of the Government of the United Kingdom on the European Advisory Commission :	Representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic on the European Advisory Commission :
JOHN G. WINANT.	F T GOUSEV	WILLIAM STRANG	MASSIGLI

LANCASTER HOUSE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

1st May, 1945.

### *German Act of Surrender, May 8, 1945*<sup>1</sup>

1. We the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Supreme High Command of the Red Army all forces on land, at sea, and in the air who are at this date under German control.

2. The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval and air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European time on 8th May 1945, to remain in the positions occupied at that time and to disarm completely, handing over their weapons and equipment to the local allied commanders or officers designated by Representatives of the Allied Supreme Commands. No ship, vessel, or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment, and also to machines of all kinds, armament, apparatus, and all the technical means of prosecution of war in general.

3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commanders, and ensure the carrying out of any further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and by the Supreme High Command of the Red Army.

4. This act of military surrender is without prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by, or on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to GERMANY and the German armed forces as a whole.

5. In the event of the German High Command or any of the forces under their control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Supreme High Command of the Red Army will take such punitive or other action as they deem appropriate.

6. This Act is drawn up in the English, Russian and German languages. The English and Russian are the only authentic texts.

Signed at Berlin on the 8. day of May, 1945

FRIEDEBURG            KEITEL            STUMPF  
On behalf of the German High Command

<sup>1</sup> *A Decade of American Foreign Policy*, pp. 505-506.

In the presence of:

On behalf of the  
Supreme Commander  
Allied Expeditionary Force  
A W TEDDER

On behalf of the  
Supreme High Command  
of the Red Army  
G ZHUKOV

At the signing also were present as witnesses:

F. DE LATRE-TASSIGNY  
General Commanding in Chief  
First French Army

CARL SPAATZ  
General, Commanding United  
States Strategic Air Forces

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***Declaration Regarding the Defeat of Germany and the Assumption of Supreme Authority by the Allied Powers, June 5, 1945***<sup>1</sup>

The German Armed Forces on land, at sea and in the air have been completely defeated and have surrendered unconditionally and Germany, which bears responsibility for the war, is no longer capable of resisting the will of the victorious Powers. The unconditional surrender of Germany has thereby been effected, and Germany has become subject to such requirements as may now or hereafter be imposed upon her.

There is no central Government or authority in Germany capable of accepting responsibility for the maintenance of order, the administration of the country and compliance with the requirements of the victorious Powers.

It is in these circumstances necessary, without prejudice to any subsequent decisions that may be taken respecting Germany, to make provision for the cessation of any further hostilities on the part of the German armed forces, for the maintenance of order in Germany and for the administration of the country, and to announce the immediate requirements with which Germany must comply.

The Representatives of the Supreme Commands of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the French Republic, hereinafter called the "Allied Representatives," acting by authority of their respective Governments and the interests of the United Nations, accordingly make the following Declaration:—

The Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, hereby assume supreme authority with respect to Germany, including all the powers possessed by the German Government, the High Command and any state, municipal, or local government or authority. The assumption, for the purposes stated above, of the said authority and powers does not effect the annexation of Germany.

The Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, will hereafter determine

<sup>1</sup> Senate Document No. 123, 81st Congress, 1st Session. *A Decade of American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents* (Washington, 1950), pp. 506-511.