

Army to Continue Control in Germany

The control of government in the US occupied area of Germany will remain indefinitely in the hands of the US Army, the White House announced in Washington on March 23. This step nullifies plans for the taking over of US Zone administration by the State Department, which was scheduled to take place on or about July 1.

Gen. Lucius D. Clay will remain as Military Governor and Commander-in-Chief of US Forces in Europe.

The text of the White House announcement follows:

"Following a review of the present situation, it has been decided that it would be inadvisable to make any changes in our present administrative arrangements for Germany.

"This decision will not have any adverse effect on progress toward developing German responsibility for self-government and administrative initiative.

"General Clay remains as Military Governor and as Commander-in-Chief of US Forces in Europe."

The Military Governor, in reply to a question asked at a press conference in Frankfurt on March 25, said there would be no changes in plans for cutting Military Government staffs, and in the civilianization program.

General Clay said:

"There will be no changes in the programs at all. That has nothing to do with the transfer or take-over. It is normal process with the restoration of further self-government and further responsibility to the German people, and the program will continue. The only possible effect might be a retardation of civilianization of some of the officers within Military Government. However, that would be a minimum retardation and not a policy."

The Military Governor said that, except in individual cases, it will continue to be the policy to return military personnel in Military Government to the United States unless they civilianized within a certain period of time.

He added that under exceptional conditions an officer may be permitted to complete his foreign tour in Military Government, but be subject to replacement when his tour was completed.