

For Cabinet


 THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
 WASHINGTON

Saboteur Trial

5 January 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL STIMSON:

Subject: Note for Cabinet Meeting - Trial of 2 Spies

There is some suggestion that the trial of the two new men should be conducted in the same way as the earlier trial. I think this would be a big mistake and it would not be understood by our troops overseas. Such a trial would be entirely too spectacular. There is no necessity for having the Attorney General or his Office take part in it other than to assist the military officers who would conduct it. I believe the trial should be conducted by the Second Service Command as a regular commission with no publicity and a mere announcement of the result. All the fanfare over the last trial is out of place now that thousands of our men are being killed from week to week. It should be on a routine, purely military basis. I think you ought to press this at Cabinet.

Judge Patterson, General Royall and the Judge Advocate General all strongly agree with this point of view.

J.J. McC.