

SCENE: GENERAL MERRIN'S OFFICE

[General Merrin is on phone. Colonel Parker enters.]

GENERAL MERRIN [into phone]: What do you mean they won't let you have it! You can commandeer them! We want every plane that can fly in the air! [Hangs up; looks at Colonel Parker.] Tad, just a minute. [Phone rings. He picks it up.] Merrin. [Pause.] I know there are some of them that don't know the territory. [Pause.] I know some of them have never been to Berlin. [Pause.] Major, we have to give the Military Governor every help we can give him. We have to get seven hundred tons in the air a day. Seven hundred tons! [Hangs up. Looks at Colonel Parker. Shakes his head a little.] This airlift is some operation. We have to get 700 tons of produce to Berlin every day. Did you ever think we would be flying coal and tomatoes in these crates? [Pause.] Tad we've always been good friends and that's why I called you in. I want to know what you're going to do in that courtroom tomorrow.

Merrin

COLONEL PARKER: You know damn well what I'm going

GENERAL MERRIN: Now, here's the problem, Tad. Hitler knew what he was doing when he rehabilitated Germany. He marshaled every important industrialist, politician, military man, judge. You convict these men, you'll make Communism look more attractive to the German people. You'll make them think of us as their persecutors.

Merrin (Parker)

COLONEL PARKER: You never cared for these trials, did you, Matt?

GENERAL MERRIN: I wasn't what you call fond of them.

COLONEL PARKER: You never were fond of building an international criminal court, were you?

GENERAL MERRIN: No. And I'll tell you why. We sometimes have to do things for our own security—or, if you will, our own interests—and I personally do not look forward to sitting as a defendant in a trial with those idiots at the U.N. as my prosecutor and judges. If you look at it that way, why not put Truman on trial for dropping the bomb?

COLONEL PARKER: Maybe we should.

GENERAL MERRIN: I'll boil it down to this: We need the help of the German people. And you don't get the support of the German people by giving their leaders stiff prison sentences.

[It is obvious that General Merrin's words have rocked Colonel Parker.]

COLONEL PARKER: This is supposed to be a new beginning but it's a new end, isn't it?

GENERAL MERRIN: If you want to be one of those responsible for our losing this struggle with the Soviet Union, think