

## United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC)

International committee established by the Allies in October 1943 to find and prosecute war criminals. Representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, India, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, the United States, Yugoslavia, and Ethiopia participated in the UNWCC. The Soviet Union did not join, but cooperated with the group in spirit.

The UNWCC was made responsible to investigate Nazi crimes, record them, and help prepare indictments; make sure the war criminals were arrested and the evidence of their crimes exposed; find the legal basis for the punishment and extradition of the criminals; and figure out which actions should be included under the heading "crimes against humanity," including the crime of genocide.

Based on the UNWCC's recommendations, Centers of Documentation of Nazi War Crimes were set up throughout Germany to aid research into their crimes. The UNWCC also called for the institution of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and other courts, and helped establish the official lists of war criminals---registering 36,000 suspected war criminals.

The UNWCC was dissolved in 1948 as the Cold War heated up, due to the failure of various countries to cooperate with their obligations to extradite suspected war criminals.