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'Prelude to War' to Be Released to Theatres Next Month

"Prelude to War," first in a series of orientation films made originally for the Army by Lieut. Col. Frank Capra, will be released for public showings late next month, it was learned yesterday. Whether the public should be permitted to see the film, which outlines in sixty minutes the studied plan of world conquest of Germany, Italy and Japan, has been debated for some time between officials of the Office of War Information and the War Department. Although the OWI reportedly advocated certain changes in the film, it could not be learned yes-

terday whether any alterations had been made.

The film is the first of seven being made by Colonel Capra, former Hollywood director-producer, and has been shown for several months to Army and Navy personnel at home and abroad. Last month it became known that the Overseas Motion Picture Bureau of OWI had completed arrangements to show it publicly in England, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

"Prelude to War" will be offered free to commercial theatres on May 27 through the motion picture industry's War Activities Committee, and shipment of the film will be handled without cost by the National Film Carriers as a war contribution.

Inasmuch as "Prelude to War" is not one of the WAC war shorts that theatres are pledged to show, its exhibition will be on a "purely voluntary basis," it was said. However, the WAC will conduct a spe-

cial exploitation campaign stressing the importance of the film and urging theatres to exhibit it.