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CARAVEL Comments on the BROESE Case

22 Apr 59

1. Forwarded herewith for EE only is only copy of an article in Der Spiegel of 25 Feb 59, pp 30-33, titled "Affaeren: Bundeskriminalamt; Auf oestlichem Papier," which is a distorted account of the case against Dr. Edgar BROESE...handwriting expert of the Bundeskriminalamt, who is thought to have forged the diplomas from the University of Leipzig by which after the war he got his present job as chief detector of forgers. The scandal-sheet piece is written to suggest that BROESE is being officially protected by elements within the BKA, who for unspecified reasons are impeding the true course of justice.

2. CARAVEL brought up the case in conversation with [] on 23 Feb 59, the day the magazine appeared, as an example of the irresponsibility of the German press in these gloomy days of democratic federalism. His points were as follows:

a. The BKA has been unable to take any investigative, disciplinary or executive action against BROESE, whose curious history has been known for several years, because the case is assigned to the Staatsanwalt Niedersachsen for investigation and because BROESE has permanent civil service status.

b. The above circumstances are known perfectly to Der Spiegel, which nevertheless has distorted the facts to make sensational copy.

c. There is no tradition of responsibility among journalists in Germany, and no tradition of honorable indifference to the press among German government officials. The result is that the press intimidates officialdom at every level and exercises a power that cannot be spoken of in terms of Freedom of the Press.

3. This conversation interested the case officer more than its contents would normally merit, for the tone of voice was bitter and the statements were more candidly Right-Extremist than is usual with CARAVEL; he stated explicitly at one point that he favored legal repressive measures to discipline the press. I was unable to judge whether this statement represented a view that CARAVEL has held all along and permitted to be expressed on this one occasion only, or whether in recent months CARAVEL has become so discouraged at the evidences he sees growing of inefficiency and mismanagement of police and security matters that his traditionally anti-totalitarian attitude is changing. It is probably not a coincidence that in the course of the same meeting he repeated his familiar remark that there is no such thing as public security in West Germany today and proceeded to his usual harangue on the incompetence of all officials in the Ministry of Interior and the total inadequacy of the decentralized organization of the security apparatus.

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