

Feb. 19, 1951

KISLER 'CONFESSION' REPORTED BY DPA

London, REUTERS, Radioteletype in English to New York, Feb. 17, 1951, 1925 GMT—H

(Text)

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"Berlin—Gerhart Eislar, once No. 1 U.S. Communist and now propaganda chief of the Russian Zone of Germany, today seemed to be facing the stiffest test of his Party career: He is reported to have admitted disloyalty to Stalin. Eislar's 'confession' was printed in the SED press service bulletin, DPA reported tonight. According to this report, Eislar admitted that he had publicly attacked Stalin's German policy in 1937 and 1928 and had tried to oust Stalin favorites, such as Ernst Thaelmann, from Party leadership.

"Eislar was dubbed 'America's No. 1 Communist' by the House Un-American Activities Committee. He was sentenced to a year in jail and fined one thousand dollars in 1949 for refusing to be sworn as a witness before the Committee. He was released on bail and filed an appeal to the Supreme Court.

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"While they were considering it, Eislar jumped bail and stowed away aboard a Polish ship in New York harbor. He was taken off the ship in Britain but a British court refused to extradite him, and he left London for Prague in a Czech aircraft in May, 1949. He later became East German Minister of Information. He has frequently been a target for 'purge rumors' since he stepped into the office in 1949.

"In his 'confession' he said he tried to form a compromise wing in the prewar German Communist Party. That was in 1927.

"I plead guilty to supporting this compromise group, of publicly attacking the policy of the great Stalin, of having tried to overthrow the Central Communist Party Committee and to engineer the temporary removal of Ernst Thaelmann, a loyal Bolshevik leader, from the Central Committee," Eislar wrote, according to DPA. (Thaelmann, killed by the Nazis in the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1944, has become one of the most revered of Communist leaders). (REUTERS brackets—Ed.) "It was only in 1929 that I began to understand that a compromiser could never be a good Communist or Marxist, Leninist, or friend of the Soviet Union, or a straightforward pupil of Stalin."

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Central Intelligence Agency  
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'Eisler's story revealed that in 1929, just after the acts of disloyalty he now allegedly admits, he left Germany for a visit to Moscow 'to answer for his work in the Party.' After that interview with Stalin, he set out on a political pilgrimage through China, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Spain, France, and the United States before returning to Germany in the spring of 1949.

"Expert Allied opinion in West Berlin saw two possibilities arising out of Eisler's remarkable self-abasement:

"1--That the German Communist Party is again to be asked to make considerable sacrifices in the interests of German unity and international socialist politics, sacrifices which might prove unpopular to the rank and file.

"2--That it heralds a further purge of important Party officials who, although involved in the prewar 'compromise groups,' have not yet undertaken 'self-criticism.'

"The U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 22, 1949, dismissed an appeal by Eisler from a contempt of court conviction. The effect of this dismissal was to leave the conviction and sentence hanging over his head should he ever return to the United States. Eisler said upon arrival in Prague that he would sue the United States Government for 25 million dollars. It would be, he said, an indemnity for bail forfeited when he left the United States.

#### WAR MATERIALS LEAKING TO RED CHINA

Hamburg, DPA, in German Henschreiber to Germany, Feb. 18, 1951, 1940  
GMT--L

(Text)

"Frankfort--The Allied High Commission has learned that recently large quantities of commodities important for warfare have been exported illegally from the Federal Republic to Communist China. DPA learned on Sunday that German firms have supplied to Communist China trucks, signaling equipment, machine parts, and electro-technical material via Switzerland and Holland. Deliveries were paid for in dollars or Swiss francs.

"The Allied authorities have handed to the German authorities lists of firms which have recently been trading with Communist China or other Eastern Bloc states. Allied officials point out that the Eastern States have intensified their attempts to do business with firms in the Federal Republic. Their main interest is in commodities important for warfare, especially finished products. More than 2 thousand German 3½-ton trucks are said to have been exported to Communist China."