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[redacted] INFORMATION REPORT [redacted]

COUNTRY: West Germany

SUBJECT: Chancellor Adenauer's Opinion on the Present Election Law

PLACE ACQUIRED: [redacted]

DATE ACQUIRED: [redacted]

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In late September Dr. Conrad Adenauer is reported to have said that, as a result of the election, he now favored a continuation of the present electoral system whereby half the Bundestag is elected directly and half through proportional representation, and consequently would not press for a change in the law. Adenauer is reported to have given the following reason for the change in his attitude: the overwhelming nature of his party's victory had impressed him with the importance for parliamentary government of a coherent and numerically important opposition party. The Chancellor feared that a pure majority election law, such as had been contemplated last summer, might lead not to a two-party system but rather to a single-party one.

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