

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN 91248

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GROUP 1
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CITE

DIST 13 SEPTEMBER 1968

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY/FRANCE/WESTERN EUROPE

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
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DOI

[Redacted]

SUBJECT

FOREIGN MINISTER BRANDT'S MEETINGS ON WEST GERMAN
FOREIGN POLICY BEFORE VISITING PARIS

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
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ACQ

[Redacted]

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SOURCE

[Large Redacted Source Area]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2002

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1. [Redacted] BEFORE FOREIGN MINISTER BRANDT TRAVELLED

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TO PARIS TO MEET FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DEBRE, BRANDT
 MUSED ALOUD ON THE SUBJECT OF SEVERAL ALLIED ASPECTS OF WEST
 GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY. IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS [REDACTED] MEET-
 ING WITH DEBRE, BRANDT COMMENTED THAT THE MORE HE WONDERED
 ABOUT IT, THE MORE HE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WEST GERMANY
 CANNOT REALLY DEPEND ON THE AMERICANS. BRANDT SAID THAT HE
 WAS ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC BUNDES-
TAG DELEGATE KURT BIRRENBACH AND SPD PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
 LEADER HELMUT SCHMIDT LEARNED DURING THEIR VISITS TO THE UNITED
 STATES. BIRRENBACH, IN BRANDT'S OPINION, IS SOMEWHAT MORE
 PERCEPTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT THAN SCHMIDT. SCHMIDT CONTINUES
 QUITE SERIOUSLY TO FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL MAINTAIN
 ITS LONG-RANGE COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE, BUT BIRRENBACH SEES THE
 MATTER IN GREATER PERSPECTIVE. HE HAS CLOSER CONNECTIONS TO
 PRIVATE INDUSTRY THAN SCHMIDT AND CAN BETTER JUDGE THE BEHIND-
 THE-SCENES MANEUVERINGS. BRANDT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS
 RATHER CRYPTIC STATEMENT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT BIRRENBACH HAD
 TOLD HIM (BRANDT) THAT OVER THE LONG RANGE THE AMERICANS CAN-
 NOT BE DEPENDED UPON, AND BRANDT ADDED THAT IF BIRRENBACH BE-
 LIEVES THIS, THERE MUST BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TRUTH TO IT.

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2. ~~BRANDT FELT THAT THE CHANGES OF CONVINCING FRENCH PRESIDENT DE GAULLE TO INCREASE FRANCE'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO WERE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT. HE SAID THAT INFORMATION HAD REACHED HIM FROM AMBASSADOR VON BRAUN IN PARIS WHICH INDICATED THAT DE GAULLE INTENDS TO STICK TO HIS PREVIOUS POLICY. IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL WITHDRAW EVEN MORE FROM NATO AS SOON AS HE IS IN A POSITION TO DO IT. IF THIS OCCURS, WEST GERMANY IS LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RECONSIDER THE OLD IDEA OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY (EDC) UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FRANCE. THERE WOULD BE ONE CHANGE, HOWEVER, FROM THE PREVIOUS EDC IDEA AND THAT WOULD BE THAT THIS TIME NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE INVOLVED THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT THE DISPOSAL OF FRANCE. OF COURSE, DE GAULLE WOULD NEVER LET CONTROL OF THESE WEAPONS OUT OF FRENCH CONTROL OR DO ANYTHING ELSE TO LIMIT FRENCH SOVEREIGNTY IN MATTERS OF DEFENSE. EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS ACCEPT MONEY FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS TO BUILD UP HIS NUCLEAR DEFENSE FORCE~~

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BRANDT SAID THAT HE IS AFRAID THAT SCHMIDT AND OTHER (C)

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INFLUENTIAL SPD PARLIAMENTARIANS SUCH AS WILLY BERKHAN AND
 KLAUS-PETER SCHULZ WILL PUT PRESSURE ON HIM TO PLACE MORE
 EMPHASIS ON THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF WEST GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY THAN
 HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST, EVEN THOUGH HE HIMSELF FEELS THAT THIS IS
 A MISTAKE. HE BELIEVES THAT AS THINGS NOW STAND THE UNITED STATES
 WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MEET BY MILITARY MEANS A SERIOUS
 SOVIET MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN EUROPE. THERE WOULD BE NO SUPPORT
 FOR SUCH A STAND AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AMBASSADOR VON BRAUN,
 WHO FOR SEVERAL YEARS WAS THE HEAD OF THE WEST GERMAN DELEGATION
 TO THE UNITED NATIONS, HAS COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION FROM HIS
 OBSERVATIONS OF ATTITUDES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE AMERICANS
 DON'T WANT ANY COMPLICATIONS IN EUROPE AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO RID
 THEMSELVES OF THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS THERE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE,
 BRANDT SAID, TO RID ONESELF OF THE FEELING THAT ONE DAY AMERICAN
 LEADERS WILL CHANGE THEIR POLICY AND HAVE NO FURTHER OBJECTIONS
 TO DE GAULLE AS HEAD OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE. ON THE CONTRARY,
 MANY AMERICANS WOULD ACCEPT THIS IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE BURDEN
 ON THE UNITED STATES.

4. ~~CERTAIN ADVANTAGES FOR WEST GERMAN POLICY IN EASTERN~~
~~EUROPE MAY STILL BE DERIVED FROM COOPERATION WITH FRANCE~~ (C)

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~~SPIKE OF THE BLOW TO IDEAS OF DETENTE IN EUROPE IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DE GAULLE'S WHOLE BEHAVIOR FOLLOWING THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT HE STILL HAS SOME TRUMPS IN HIS HAND TO BRING INTO PLAY TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN EUROPE. KIRSINGER FEELS THE SAME WAY, BRANDT SAID, AND WILL KEEP THIS POSSIBILITY IN MIND WHEN DE GAULLE COMES TO BONN LATER IN SEPTEMBER. DURING HIS VISIT IT SHOULD BECOME EASIER TO SEE JUST HOW FAR DE GAULLE IS WILLING TO WORK WITH THE WEST GERMANS IN THIS FIELD. AS FAR AS HE (BRANDT) IS CONCERNED, HE WILL DO NOTHING IN THE MEANTIME TO ISOLATE DE GAULLE FURTHER FROM THE OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS. HE WILL NOT GIVE IN, HE SAID, TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARGUE THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS SHOULD GO AHEAD WITHOUT FRANCE TO BRING GREAT BRITAIN AND THE SCANDINAVIAN NATIONS INTO THE COMMON MARKET. SUCH A POLICY WOULD IN THE LONG RUN LEAD TO A COMPLETE DISRUPTION OF THE ALLIANCE IN EUROPE AND TEND TO ISOLATE WEST GERMANY NOT ONLY FROM FRANCE BUT INTERNATIONALLY.~~

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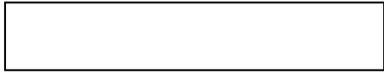
5. [Redacted] COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER SOMETIMES HAS SUCH MOMENTS OF DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

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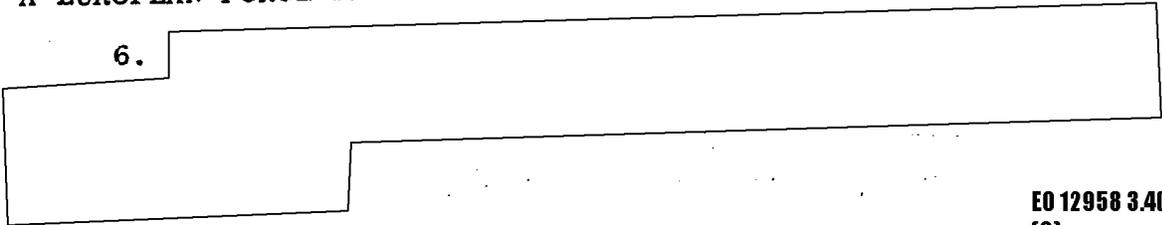
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IT IS CLEAR ONLY THAT THE IDEA OF AN EDC REVIVAL HAS COME UP.

IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED, ON THE BASIS OF THESE PRIVATE REMARKS,
THAT ANY DECISION BY THE BONN GOVERNMENT IN FAVOR OF SUCH
A EUROPEAN FORCE IMPENDS.)

6.



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