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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Chief, PP

SUBJECT: Commission for the Guidance and Review of Selected PP Activities in West Berlin

REFERENCE: Inquiry of DCI, 21 November 1955, concerning FRAN 4690 (IN 29945), 12 November 1955

1. General Situation: Negotiations are presently in progress between CIA's German Station, the German Federal Republic (represented by the Kaiser Ministry) and the West Berlin Senate aimed at the formation of a joint "commission" which would generally guide and review the operational activities of five West Berlin resistance and anti-Communist propaganda groups, the CIA sponsorship of which has been previously disclosed to the Federal and Berlin governments. The overt German element of this commission (CIA would be a silent member) would also function as a buffer between CIA and the German public and press. Some such arrangement has become necessary because West German pressure on and attacks against these groups generally, and against one of these groups in particular, has reached a point endangering their continued existence. The "Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit" (KgU - Fighting Group Against Inhumanity, subsidized under Project DTLINEN) has carried the brunt of the pressure and the commission would initially concentrate on this group. The other groups concerned are: 1) Untersuchungsausschuss Freiheitlicher Juristen (UFJ - Investigation Committee of Free Jurists, Project CADROIT); 2) TARANTEL magazine (Project LCPAGAN); 3) Verband Politischer Ostfluechtlinge (VPO - League of Political Refugees from East Germany, [ ] and 4) Werbebuero Kramer (Kramer Public Relations Office, Project LCCASSOCK).

2. Background:

a. The KgU and four other PP projects in West Berlin previously were revealed to the West German and the West Berlin governments as CIA-sponsored activities. In connection with the acknowledgment of CIA sponsorship, the statement was also made to the German governmental authorities that it was CIA's intent that these projects would eventually become joint German/U.S. operations or that they would be turned over completely to German management.

b. In mid-1955 the East Zone authorities launched an all-out effort (which included press propaganda, show trials and SIS recruitment and

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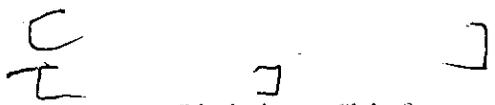
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penetration attempts) aimed at discrediting and reducing the effectiveness of, if not completely destroying, the KGU. Many of the Communist press and show trial charges were subsequently picked up by certain West German publications which charged that the U.S. was misusing a professed humanitarian organization for espionage and sabotage and that the KGU was insecure and jeopardized the lives of East Zone residents. This publicity led to some pressure for an investigation of KGU by the Berlin Parliament (CIA liaison succeeded in squelching such action on the part of the Parliament) and various West German government officials expressed official concern to CIA, both as to the KGU specifically and the revealed projects generally. For example, one high Kaiser Ministry official stated that he could no longer defend the activities of these groups to parliamentary committees, without more knowledge of their activities and policies; he also indicated that he felt that CIA was not actually prepared to turn over these organizations to the West German government or to run them jointly. In another instance, the Kaiser Ministry, in a demarche to CIA, stated that the Ministry opposed the conduct of administrative harassment operations by the KGU and threatened a public disclaimer of any FedRep connection to, or endorsement of, KGU activities if these harassment operations continued.

c. These events were the prelude to a series of discussions between CIA staff members and West German and West Berlin government officials, resulting in the proposal of a joint supervisory body composed of representatives of the Bonn and Berlin governments as overt members and of CIA as a covert member. It is hoped that such a mechanism (1) will satisfy the German authorities as to the non-validity of the various charges made against the KGU and other groups, and (2) serve to satisfy German press and political figures that these groups are indeed responsive to German public policy and that the German government endorses their activities.

3. Present Status: From the beginning of the negotiations the Kaiser Ministry has supported the commission concept. Headquarters has previously concurred in principle to the establishment of a commission. Although initially reluctant to participate actively in such a commission, West Berlin Mayor Otto Suhr has apparently been persuaded by the Kaiser Ministry and his own associates to accept the commission concept. Negotiations are now progressing to the point of discussion of commission organization, functions and procedures. FRAN 4690 (IN 29945) represents the German Station's position on these points. Headquarters position on these terms of reference were indicated to the German Station in DIR 33891 (OUT 92869) and EGOW 26683 (both attached).

  
Eastern European Division, Chief

Enclosures:

EGOW 26683 and  
DIR 33891 (OUT 92869)

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