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TELETYPED INFORMATION REPORT**

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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T		DISSEMINATION CONTROLS NOFORN	
TDCS 7/354, 654		DATE DISTR. 8 May 1958	PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
COUNTRY West Germany/Poland	PLACE ACQUIRED Germany, Frankfurt		
SUBJECT Ludwig Erhard's Comments on West German Trade with the Soviet Union and Poland			
DATE OF INFORMATION Early May 1958		REFERENCES RD-C-1766	
APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3.			
SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE) Western businessman (B)			
<p>1. In a private off-the-record conversation, <u>Ludwig Erhard</u>, West German Minister of Economic Affairs, stated that the West German-Soviet treaty is purely political, and that the volume of Soviet-West German trade would have increased in the same amount without a formal agreement. The treaty, according to Erhard, actually complicates the exchange of goods because of specific quotas laid down in the agreement. The treaty will be hard to carry out since the Soviets will not be able to sell what they offer in Germany.</p> <p>2. Erhard is fully aware of the pressure from West German businessmen for increased trade with Poland. The West German Government, however, cannot buy goods from the Poles which are not saleable in Germany. He cited coal purchases as an example and referred to five million tons of German coal lying at the pitheads. Erhard stated that a new trade agreement with Poland is very hard to negotiate and that, since the Germans are unable to work out a simple plan, they are simply extending the agreement three months at a</p>			
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<p>time. Erhard added "I am optimistic, but see the entire problem in dark colors" (sic).</p> <p><u>Headquarters Comment:</u> Evaluations are requested from the Department of State and from ORR.</p> <p><u>Field Distribution:</u> None.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">End of Message</p>	
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