

FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE: A. Completely reliable. B. Usually reliable. C. Fairly reliable. D. Not usually reliable. E. Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F. Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1. Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2. Probably true. 3. Possibly true. 4. Doubtful. 5. Probably false. 6. Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on original document.

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COUNTRY	West Germany	REPORT NO.	EOM-2027
SUBJECT	Decline in Position of Economics Minister Ludwig Erhard	DATE OF REPORT	31 August 1959
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: Western journalist (C) from Hans Edgar Jahn, President of the Arbeitgemeinschaft Demokratischer Kreise, Bad Godesberg.

Appraisal of Content: 2 for reportorial accuracy.

1. Economics Minister Ludwig Erhard's trip to Turkey is viewed by many CDU/CSU Bundestag fraction members as a flight from the current coal crisis, concerning which talks are now being conducted in Bonn. Several weeks ago, Chancellor Adenauer tried to dissuade Erhard from leaving during this critical period, but Erhard insisted that it would be impolite to cancel plans for the trip at that late date. This has resulted in Erhard's losing more ground among many fraction members, who interpret it as one further example of Erhard's lack of backbone, and his inability to face up to unpleasant realities.
2. When Erhard originally discussed with Adenauer the problem of the increasing inroads by heating oil in the German coal industry, he was told by the Chancellor that he was free to adopt any policy which he felt would be best, whether free market or coal subsidies, or another, but that he should decide on a clear line, and hold unwaveringly to it. Adenauer would not commit himself on which policy he would prefer, falling back on his usual remark that he didn't understand economic matters.

1. Source Comment: Adenauer is a "sly fox" in his dealings with Erhard. He is insuring that Erhard will have to take full blame for any unpopular measures which he may adopt.

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