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• ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY EAST GERMANY/WEST GERMANY

TDCSDB-315/01550-64

DATE OF
INFO.

LATE OCTOBER - 25 NOVEMBER 1964
SUBJECT

DISTR. 3 DECEMBER 1964

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS FOR RANSOM AND EXCHANGE
OF PRISONERS

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

GERMANY, MUNICH (25 NOVEMBER 1964)

REF TDCSDB- IN
315/01223-64

SOURCE SENIOR AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL FROM
AND AN OFFICIAL OF THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE (BND).

FIELD REPORT NO. EGMA-65639

APPRAISAL:

APPRAISAL: THE INFORMATION IS PROBABLY TRUE AS FAR AS
IT GOES. PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH BND
OFFICIALS ON THIS TOPIC HAVE SHOWN THAT THE
BND HAS NOT BEEN FULLY INFORMED.

1. THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL NEGOTIATING WITH THE
EAST GERMANS FOR THE REPATRIATION OF CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS
LIVE IN WEST GERMANY AND ADULTS WHOSE FAMILIES WERE SPLIT BY THE
BERLIN SECTOR WALL. THE WEST GERMAN MINISTRY OF ALL GERMAN AFFAIRS
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. LAWYERS JUERGEN STANGE AND
WOLFGANG VOGEL ARE INTERMEDIARIES. THE WEST GERMANS WILL INSIST
ON A FAVORABLE EAST GERMAN DECISION ON THE RELEASE OF THESE
PEOPLE BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON A SECOND ROUND OF PRISONER
EXCHANGES. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT. SEE TDCSDB-315/01223-64 FOR
PREVIOUS INFORMATION ON THE EAST GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND

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ROUND OF PRISONER EXCHANGES. ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES, EAST BERLIN LAWYER WOLFGANG VOGEL NO LONGER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT EAST GERMANY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH WEST GERMANS BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE EAST GERMANS, OF THE PUBLICITY GIVEN THE EXCHANGES BY VICE-CHANCELLOR MENDE. NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE STANGE-VOGEL CHANNEL HAVE COME TO A STANDSTILL. SEE TDCSDB-315/01265-64 AND TDCS-314/05974-64.)

2. THE EAST GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND ROUND OF PRISONER EXCHANGES INVOLVES THE RELEASE OF AN ADDITIONAL 800 PRISONERS, THE FINAL LIST TO BE COMPILED THROUGH NEGOTIATION. IN RETURN, THE EAST GERMANS ARE REQUESTING:

A. AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT OF MEDICINE AND GOODS.

(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT. A BND OFFICIAL PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT THE WEST GERMANS WERE PREPARED TO PAY UP TO \$10,000 RANSOM FOR EACH PERSON RELEASED. SEE TDCSDB-315/00940-64.)

B. THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL EAST GERMAN MINISTRY OF SECURITY AGENTS, INCLUDING KRUEGER (FNU), WHO WAS ARRESTED IN OBERPEAFFENHOFEN AND IS NOW AWAITING SENTENCE, LORENZ COSMANN, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE GUENTER HOFE CASE; AND SEVEN OR EIGHT OTHERS.

C. THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL VERY IMPORTANT SOVIET AND CZECH AGENTS, INCLUDING HEINZ FELFE, ALFRED FRENZEL, PETER FUHRMANN, AND HANS CLEMENS. (SOURCE COMMENT. THE BND IS SURPRISED THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE

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OF SOVIET AND CZECH AGENTS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE EVER DONE THIS, AND THEY PREVIOUSLY HAVE REFUSED TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARIES FOR THE RELEASE OF WEST GERMAN PRISONERS IN OTHER SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES.) THE EAST GERMANS CONTEND THAT FELFE IS A SOVIET AND FRENZEL A CZECH CITIZEN. (SOURCE COMMENT. THIS IS A SMOKE SCREEN, HOWEVER, WHICH WILL HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON THE DECISION OF THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT.)

3. THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THE EAST GERMAN PROPOSAL CAREFULLY AND IS NOT LIKELY TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE SECOND ROUND OF PRISONER EXCHANGES SOON. (SOURCE COMMENT. THE ISSUE IS VERY SENSITIVE AND THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1965 COMPLICATE THE MATTER. THE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WILL NOT BE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PRISONER EXCHANGE IF IT IS CONSIDERED UNWISE POLITICALLY.)

4. (SOURCE COMMENT. THE BND OFFICIAL DID NOT BELIEVE THAT WEST GERMANS WOULD BICKER ABOUT THE EAST GERMAN RANSOM PRICE OR THE RELEASE OF KRUEGER, COSMANN, AND OTHER EAST GERMAN AGENTS. THEY WILL CERTAINLY DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN, HOWEVER, BEFORE RELEASING IMPORTANT SOVIET AND CZECH AGENTS. THE BND OFFICIAL'S ESTIMATE OF THE CHANCES OF THESE PRISONERS' BEING RELEASED IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. FELFE HAS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF BEING RELEASED. THE WEST GERMAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR GENERAL,

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AND THE BND ARE ALL AGAINST RELEASING HIM. HIS TREASON WAS PARTICULARLY HEINOUS, AND HE HAS NOT MADE ANYTHING APPROACHING A FULL CONFESSION.

B. CLEMENS HAS A FAIRLY GOOD CHANCE OF BEING RELEASED. HE IS AN OLDER MAN, MADE A COMPLETE CONFESSION, AND HAS SERVED A LARGE PROPORTION OF HIS SENTENCE.

C. FUHRMANN'S CHANCES FOR RELEASE ARE NOT GOOD BUT ARE BETTER THAN FELFE'S. HE MADE A COMPLETE CONFESSION. HE OWNS PROPERTY IN WEST BERLIN SO IT IS DEEMED UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD MOVE TO EAST GERMANY.

D. FRENZEL HAS A FAIRLY GOOD CHANCE OF BEING RELEASED. HE IS AN OLDER MAN, HAS SERVED FIVE YEARS OF HIS SENTENCE, AND HAS MADE A CONFESSION.)

6. (SOURCE COMMENT. CONTRARY TO THE GENERAL IMPRESSION, THE BND NEVER OPPOSED THE PRISONER EXCHANGES AS SUCH. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNWISE POLITICALLY TO DO THIS. SENIOR BND OFFICIALS MERELY WARNED WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE EAST GERMANS AND NOT LET THEIR HUMANITARIANISM BE EXPLOITED. OTHERWISE THE EAST GERMANS COULD SIMPLY ARREST A NUMBER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE EVERY TIME THEY WANT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE SOME PRISONERS.)

FIELD DISTRIBUTION: NONE

END OF MESSAGE

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