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GROUP 1
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CITE TDCS DB-315/02687-67

S E C R E T

DIST 12 JULY 1967

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY

DOI 20 JUNE 1967

SUBJECT WEST BERLIN OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON PRISONER EXCHANGE
NEGOTIATIONS

12 21 33 Z

ACQ GERMANY, BONN (LATE JUNE 1967)

FIELD NO. EGN-3431

SOURCE A FUNCTIONARY OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC

REF: TDCSDB-315/02418-67
TDCSDB-315/02684-67

PARTY (SPD) WHO HAD TEMPORARY ACCESS TO THE MEMORANDUM
DESCRIBING THE CONVERSATION. HE PROVIDED A COPY OF THE
MEMORANDUM.

1. ACCORDING TO A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION PREPARED
BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE SPD OSTBUERO, A MEETING TOOK
PLACE ON 20 JUNE 1967 IN WEST BERLIN BETWEEN HIM AND JOHANNES
VOELCKERS, CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF ALL-BERLIN AFFAIRS OF THE
WEST BERLIN SENAT, TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATUS OF PRISONER
EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS. THE OFFICE FOR ALL-BERLIN AFFAIRS
IS IMMEDIATELY SUBORDINATE TO THE CHIEF OF THE SENAT CHANCERY
AND WAS DESCRIBED IN THE MEMORANDUM AS THE PRINCIPAL FOR THE
WEST BERLIN NEGOTIATOR, JUERGEN STANGE.

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2. VOELCKERS SAID THAT AT PRESENT THE EAST GERMANS APPEAR WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON 400 TO 500 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND A SMALLER NUMBER OF PERSONS TO BE RELEASED TO REJOIN FAMILIES IN WEST GERMANY. (FIELD COMMENT: VOELCKER DID NOT GIVE ANY BREAKDOWN OF THE TOTAL FIGURES, AND WE CANNOT RESOLVE THE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE FIGURES LISTED IN TDCSDB-315/02418-67 AND THE SOMEWHAT LARGER TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS GIVEN BY VOELCKERS.) ALMOST 1,000 CASES INVOLVING POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY VOELCKERS' OFFICE. THE PRICE FOR EACH POLITICAL PRISONER STANDS AT 40,000 DM, AND AT 20,000 DM FOR EACH PERSON OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE LEAVING EAST GERMANY TO JOIN HIS FAMILY IN THE WEST. CHILDREN UNDER 16 ARE TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT PAYMENT.

3. VOELCKERS TOLD THE OSTBUERO OFFICIAL THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT REQUESTS FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS SENTENCED ON CHARGES OF HAVING BEEN MEMBERS OF THE SPD, OF HAVING BEEN "SPD-ORIENTED", OR OF HAVING WORKED FOR THE OSTBUERO. THE SAME IS GENERALLY TRUE FOR PRISONERS ARRESTED AND SENTENCED FOR HAVING WORKED FOR ALLIED INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. THE OPPOSITE IS THE CASE, HOWEVER, WHEN PRISONERS

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CHARGED WITH HAVING WORKED FOR THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BND) ARE INVOLVED. IN THESE CASES THE EAST GERMANS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNRESPONSIVE. ABOUT 50 OF THESE CASES ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN VOELCKERS' OFFICE. WITH REGARD TO THIS GROUP, VOELCKERS SAID THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT IN THE FALL OF 1967 SOMETHING MIGHT POSSIBLY BE DONE FOR THEM. HE DID NOT ELABORATE, HOWEVER, AND ADDED THAT THIS WAS TO BE TREATED VERY CONFIDENTIALLY. THE EAST GERMANS, HE SAID, WERE APPARENTLY NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY PAYMENTS FOR THESE PRISONERS SO MUCH AS IN THE RELEASE OF PERSONS NOW SERVING PRISON TERMS IN WEST GERMANY ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE FOR THE EAST. (FIELD COMMENT: THE MEMORANDUM DID NOT MENTION HEINZ FELPE SPECIFICALLY, ALTHOUGH HIS NAME HAS FIGURED PROMINENTLY AMONG EAST GERMAN DEMANDS BEFORE, INCLUDING THOSE REPORTED IN TDCSDB-315/02418-67.)

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SPD OSTBUERO WILL DELIVER MATERIAL ON PRISONERS, AND VOELCKERS AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY THAT EVERY PERSON NAMED BY THE OSTBUERO REALLY BE A FORMER OSTBUERO INFORMANT OR "SPD-ORIENTED". IT WAS AGREED FURTHER THAT EVERY CASE BE INVESTIGATED BY THE OSTBUERO TO

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SEE IF ANY CRIMINAL CHARGE EXISTED UNDER WEST GERMAN LAW AGAINST ANY OF THE PERSONS BEING CONSIDERED FOR EXCHANGE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO AVOID PAYING OUT THE RATHER CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY FOR PERSONS WHO, FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN TO WEST GERMANY OR WEST BERLIN, WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY LIABLE TO ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT AGAIN.

5. FIELD DISTRIBUTION - EMBASSY BONN/LIMITED/.

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