

SECRET TELEPOUCH

TO- CHIEF, EUR INFO- CHIEF, SB, COB/FRANKFURT, COB/BERLIN,
COB/MUNICH, COB/HAMBURG

FROM- COS/GERMANY

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EGN-3TDUYT

INTEL

EGN 3765

SUPDATA-

5 JULY 68. NO INDEXING.

NOT FOR LIAISON.

FILED- 1845Z 9 JULY 1968

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

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REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/
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COUNTRY- WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY/USSR

DOI - EARLY JULY 1968

SUBJECT-0 WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION OF THE
RELEASE OF HEINZ FELFE []

ACQ - GERMANY, BONN /5 JULY 1968/ FIELD NO. EGN. 3765

SOURCE - A WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO HAD ACCESS TO
THE INFORMATION AND WHO SPOKE WITH STATE SECRETARY
CARSTENS. THE GERMAN OFFICIAL WAS AWARE THAT THE
INFORMATION HE PROVIDED WOULD REACH THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT. THE INFORMATION IS PROBABLY
TRUE.

1. WEST GERMAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE GUSTAV HEINEMANN
AND PROTESTANT CHURCHMEN WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PRISONER
EXCHANGES WITH THE EAST GERMANS ARE PUTTING HEAVY PRESSURE
ON CHANCELLOR KIESINGER TO AGREE TO THE RELEASE OF HEINZ FELFE,
NOW SERVING A FOURTEEN YEAR SENTENCE ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES IN

WEST GERMANY. THEY MAINTAIN THAT THE EAST GERMANS AND THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER PROGRESS IN PRISONER EXCHANGE UNLESS FELFE IS RELEASED.

2. THE PRESIDENT OF THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE /BND/, GENERAL WESSEL, ATTORNEY GENERAL LUDWIG MARTIN, AND CHANCELLERY STATE SECRETARY DR. KARL CARSTENS OPPOSE THE RELEASE OF FELFE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD SIMPLY ENCOURAGE FURTHER EAST GERMAN BLACKMAIL ATTEMPTS ON THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT ON PRISONER EXCHANGES AND DEMONSTRATE THAT SOVIET SPIES CAN OPERATE IN WEST GERMANY WITHOUT PAYING SEVERE PENALTIES.

3. KIESINGER PLANNED TO MEET WITH THE OFFICIALS WHO FAVOR THE RELEASE OF FELFE OVER THE WEEKEND OF 6-7 JULY TO HEAR THEIR ARGUMENTS. CARSTENS BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE OPPOSITION TO FELFE'S RELEASE WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO COUNTER THE PRESSURE IN FAVOR OF THE RELEASE. /FIELD COMMENT- THE SOURCE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT NO DECISION ON FELFE'S RELEASE WAS REACHED./

4. FIELD DISSEM- EMBASSY BONN.
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