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DIRECTOR INFO BERLIN, FRANKFURT, HAMBURG, MUNICH, RHEIN MAIN

FOR RELAY

INTEL

SUPDATA FINAL SENTENCE PARA 1 AND SUCCEEDING SOURCE COMMENT FROM BASED ON INFO FROM STANGE 14 NOV. STANGE MOST WORRIED THAT THESE ACTIONS CONNECTED WITH PLANS FOR VOLKSKAMMER DECISIONS 15 NOV. FIELD COMMENT PARA 2 BASED ON EGNT 7511, 28 OCT. PARA 4 FROM 12 NOV. RHEIN MAIN PLS RELAY USCINCEUR, USAREUR, USAFE. NOT FOR LIAISON. NO INDEX. OGA-1059.

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DATE 14 NOVEMBER 1968
IN 34584
PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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GROUP 1
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COUNTRY WEST GERMAN/EAST GERMANY

DOI 13-14 NOV 1968

SUBJECT EAST GERMAN PRESSURES FOR A WEST GERMAN DECISION ON
PRISONER EXCHANGE

ACQ GERMANY (14 NOV 1968) FIELD NO. OGA 1059

SOURCE A EUROPEAN OBSERVER WHO HAS REPORTED ACCURATELY OVER
A PERIOD OF YEARS. HE OBTAINED THE INFO FROM
A GERMAN OFFICIAL WHO HAD ACCESS TO IT.

1. POLITICAL PRESSURE TO RELEASE THE CONVICTED SOVIET
SPY HEINZ FELFE IS MOUNTING PRIOR TO THE 15 NOV MEETING
IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE WHERE FELFE'S FATE IS TO BE DIS-
CUSSED. ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER HERBERT WEHNER AND JUSTICE
MINISTER GUSTAV HEINEMANN BELIEVE THE EAST GERMAN THREAT WHICH
WAS PASSED TO THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THAT THE EAST GERMANS WILL
STOP ALL PRISONER EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE REUNIFICA-
TION OF FAMILIES AFTER 15 NOV IF FELFE IS NOT RELEASED.
THIS THREAT IS CONTAINED IN A LETTER WHICH WAS SENT BY THE

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14 Nov. 68

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PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

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EAST GERMAN LAWYER VOGEL DURING THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER TO THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY IN BERLIN. ONE SHIPMENT OF PRISONERS WAS DELIVERED TO WEST GERMANY ON 13 NOV, AND ANOTHER SHIPMENT, ANNOUNCED AS "THE LAST SHIPMENT", WAS SCHEDULED FOR 14 NOV. (SOURCE COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT TWO SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ONE WEEK.)

2. MINISTERS HEINEMANN AND WEHNER BELIEVE THAT THE EAST WILL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ITS THREAT BECAUSE THE GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BND) HAS FORWARDED A REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE BACKING UP THE EAST GERMAN THREAT AND THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE NOW MAKING PREPARATIONS TO STOP ALL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES. (FIELD COMMENT: WEHNER HAS ALSO MENTIONED SEVERAL SOVIET APPROACHES TO HIM ON BEHALF FOR FELFE IN RECENT MONTHS.)

3. NEITHER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) NOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (CDU) WANT TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR DISRUPTING THE PRISONER EXCHANGE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM AT CHRISTMAS TIME. THE FACT THAT THE PRISONER EXCHANGE PROGRAM WAS ORIGINALLY STARTED UNDER CDU ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER RAINER BARZEL ALSO PLAYS A ROLE IN

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PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES

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BOTH THE SPD AND CDU DELIBERATIONS ON THE FELFE ISSUE. THE CDU TAKES SOME PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT THE PROGRAM WAS STARTED UNDER THEIR AEGIS: THE SPD, WHERE WERNER IN ANY CASE WISHES TO MAINTAIN THE PROGRAM AS A PART OF HIS POLICY OF CONTACT, WANTS TO AVOID CDU RECRIMINATIONS IF THE EXCHANGE BREAKS DOWN UNDER SPD MANAGEMENT. IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THE BND WILL BE SUCCESSFUL MUCH LONGER IN PRESSING ITS VIEW THAT FELFE REMAIN IN JAIL. ON THE OTHER HAND, A FINAL DECISION AT THE CHANCELLOR'S MEETING ON 15 NOV IS UNLIKELY, SINCE THE WEST GERMAN LEADERS CONTINUE TO EXPECT ADVERSE ACTION BY THE EAST GERMAN FOLLOWING THE EAST GERMAN VOLKSKAMMER MEETING ON THE SAME DAY.

4. (FIELD COMMENT: FOR A RECENT ACCOUNT OF THE STATUS OF PRISONER EXCHANGE AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACTIVITIES, SEE EGM 3863, 8 OCT 1968. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE OF THAT REPORT, VOGEL TOLD THE WEST BERLIN LAWYER STANGE ON 4 NOV THAT NO FURTHER FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS ARE TO BE NEGOTIATED AT PRESENT, BUT THAT THE 800 ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY PAID FOR WILL BE COMPLETED. VOGEL AS THE SAME TIME ANNOUNCED THE PRISONER DELIVERIES FOR 13 AND 14 NOV, HE EXPLAINED THAT A DELIVERY PLANNED FOR 30 OCT

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IN 34584

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PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

SECRET

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HAD TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF SOVIET TROOP MOVEMENTS IN EAST GERMANY. THE DELIVERIES OF 13 AND 14 NOVEMBER WOULD BE THE LAST FOR 1968.

5. FIELD DISTRIBUTION: EMBASSY BONN, USBER, USAFE, USAREUR, USCINCEUR.

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