

SECRET TELEPOUCH

24 DECEMBER 1968

TO - CHIEF/EUR, COS/GERMANY, COB/FRANKFURT, :COB/MUNICH,

COB/HAMBURG

FROM - CHIEF OF BASE, BERLIN

INTEL/:CALL/

OGA - 844

SUPDATA -

ON 21 DECEMBER 1968 AFTER

HAD TALKED TO

NOT FOR LIAISON.

IFILED - 241300Z

APPROVED -

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

CS COPY

REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY - WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY/EAST BERLIN

DOI - 21 DECEMBER 1968

SUBJECT → WEST GERMAN OFFER TO EXCHANGE SOVIET SPY HEINZ FELFE
FOR FORMER WEST GERMAN AGENTS NOW IN EAST GERMAN
PRISONS

ACQ - GERMANY/21 DECEMBER 1968/ OGA-844

SOURCE - MEDIUM-LEVEL WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL FROM A
WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN PRISONER EXCHANGE
ACTIVITIES. SOURCE HAS AN EXTENSIVE RECORD OF RELIABLE RE-
PORTING ON THIS TOPIC.

1. //FIELD COMMENT - IN RECENT WEEKS, NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
EAST AND WEST GERMANY ON THE EXCHANGE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
HAVE BEEN AT A STANDSTILL BECAUSE OF EAST GERMANY'S DEMAND THAT
CONVICTED SPY HEINZ FELFE BE RELEASED BEFORE ADDITIONAL PRISONER
EXCHANGES ARE NEGOTIATED. SEE EGN-3863 AND EGN -24,416.

THE ONLY WEST GERMAN KNOWN RECENTLY TO HAVE

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BEEN RELEASED IS WERNER PANKOW, FORMER AGENT OF THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE /BND/, WHO WAS RANSOMED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BY THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY IN EARLY DECEMBER. ACCORDING TO EGB-24,435, NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN HAVE CONTINUED.//

2. IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT IMPASSE ON PRISONER EXCHANGES, THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO EXCHANGE FELFE FOR A NUMBER OF FORMER BND AGENTS WHO ARE NOW SERVING LONG TERMS IN EAST GERMAN PRISONS. ON 21 DECEMBER, WEST GERMAN PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATOR LUDWIG REHLINGER GAVE WEST BERLIN PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATOR JUERGEN STANGE A LIST OF PRISONERS FOR WHOM THE WEST GERMANS ARE WILLING TO EXCHANGE FELFE. STANGE, IN TURN, WAS TO PASS THE LIST TO HIS EAST GERMAN COUNTERPART, ATTORNEY WOLFGANG VOGEL.

3. THE WEST GERMANS EXPECT THAT EAST GERMANY WILL COUNTER WITH A REVISED LIST, DELETING SOME NAMES AND ADDING OTHERS. REHLINGER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BARGAIN FOR THE RELEASE OF THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF WEST GERMANS BEFORE AGREEING TO FELFE'S RELEASE. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE THAN A MONTH.

4. FIELD DISSEM - AMEMBASSY/BONN, USBER.

REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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