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3 April 1950

Chief, Foreign Division "M"
Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Meeting of Allied High Commission with Chancellor

Attached hereto is the verbatim report of the meeting on 23 March 1950 of the Council of the Allied High Commission with the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, in which General Gahlen was discussed as a candidate to head the Federal Verfassungsschutz.

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VERBATIM OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION
with the
CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

E X T R A C T

BRUDERSCHAFT

Now we come to another point in respect to that organization - a lot has been said about it - the Bruderschaft; whether you have any information which could give us some clarification on the matter. It is rather difficult to form an opinion of an organization which is composed of some good elements and some not so good. This organization in taking up some ideas which have unpleasant memories - that is, the formation of an order of a chivalrous type or something of the kind. Have you any information in this respect?

GER: I have no information on this matter. The statement made by Major General von Manteuffel has appeared in the press. I don't know any more about that myself than what has appeared in the press.

FR: You are probably aware that some statements have appeared in the press. I believe the Sud Deutsche Zeitung; those statements are in absolute contradiction with statements made by von Manteuffel in that respect.

GER: I have read this newspaper cutting and I must say that such a lot of very precise information about my own person is circulated which is completely incorrect that under the circumstances I prefer to believe what General von Manteuffel has said.

FR: The reason why we are raising that subject is because, rightly or wrongly, public opinion in our respective countries has noted its existence and it might be useful to have some clarification. (French, not translated)

GER: Before we go on to the next point, may I ask the Ambassador how he imagines that the Federal Government could clear this matter up? We are not entitled to institute any enquiry; and, in view of what I know about the Land institutions which could be charged with such an enquiry, I really wouldn't like to ask them to do it because I feel that - I am pretty sure that there is some KPD influence there. Particularly if my information is correct that the wife of one of the members of this institution in one of the biggest Laender in the Western Zones is one of the registered members of the KPD, then I do hesitate to put the matter in the hands of one of these Land institutions.

FORMATION OF FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

FR: Of course, Mr. Chancellor, we are not expecting Bonn to give us official notification about a thing of that kind, but nevertheless we think it sufficient to remind you that we have already agreed on the establishment of an agency for the suppression of activities contrary to the Constitution. I suppose this office is already in existence, or I think it will be soon, and this is a particular case where this agency might deal with this matter in liaison with our own services in this respect.

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GMR: I would like to say here that the establishment of such an office is a difficult matter, none the less we will do it; we will set one up. Much, of course, will depend on who is put at the head of this organization, and I myself am looking into this matter very carefully. After a great deal of enquiries and searching, we have decided to appoint General Gaylund (?); this appointment has already been discussed with the gentlemen of the Allied High Commission. On the American side, where Gen. Gaylund has been well known for a long time, this appointment is welcomed. The French delegation was not so enamoured of the idea and, so enamoured of the idea, and so far as the British were concerned, they said that they would first have to ask Dr. Schumacher.

UK: I don't think I support the idea that we should first have to ask Dr. Schumacher, for whom I have the greatest respect. But I don't think that's a matter of very great interest to us, and I was aware of this proposed appointment.

FR: Of course, no confusion should be made between the opinion expressed by a Committee and a opinion expressed by the High Commission to which the Committee have to report. That is where we stand, the High Commission has not talked on the subject, and as far as I am concerned I never heard about Gen. Gaylund. Although this agency doesn't yet exist, they give you an idea of what they will be able to do in the future as long as they have already informed you that the wife of one of these members is a Communist.

GMR: Perhaps I can be allowed to say a few words about this Gen. Gaylund. I have not met him so far personally. I have asked him to come and see me next week. I think he contacted my staff on the suggestion of the Americans. The enquiries I've made about his person, especially what I have been told about him by the Bavarian Minister President Ehrhardt who knows him very well personally, have been very good and have had a very good result. Evidently if he is appointed and if his appointment becomes known abroad and at home, immediately the argument of remilitarization will arise. For several months now, and I can safely say that for several months we have been looking for a civilian who would be suitable for the appointment, and we have been unable to find one.

Also, I am not too ready - and I hope that Gen. Hays won't take this alias if I say this - to appoint a man who has too close contact with American officers. But I don't think that any objections need really be raised because I've heard that if Gen. Gaylund were really appointed to this post, then any future return to his American associations would be precluded.

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