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1958
8 OCT 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff
THROUGH: PP/C/OPS.
SUBJECT: General Gehlen Visit to the U.S.

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1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. General Gehlen, Chief of the German (Foreign) Intelligence Service (GIS), is scheduled to come to the U.S. on a CIA-sponsored trip during the first part of November.
3. You are aware that in the past General Gehlen and his organization and their relations with CIA have been exclusively within the sphere of interest of FI Staff. However, consideration is now being given in German Government circles to assigning clandestine psywar missions to the GIS and General Gehlen entertains considerable hope that he will enter this field of activity some time in 1957.
4. The GIS's final charter, and some other aspects of the GIS structure, are still unresolved on the German side. Nor has there yet, to the best knowledge of this Staff, emerged a specific concept on the part of EE Division as to what CIA attitude would or should be in the event that the GIS should actually take up PP operations. Since we do not yet know whether or when GIS will undertake PP operations and if so, what the scope or character of these operations will be and whether General Gehlen will request or accept our cooperation, it might yet be too early to decide our Agency's attitude towards that contingency.
5. However, in view of Gehlen's forthcoming visit here and considering the possibility that either he or DCI might raise the above questions during that visit, I consider it my duty to bring these matters to your attention, especially since you might wish to initiate a preliminary exchange of views with either G/EE, C/FI or DCI. In my opinion we are not interested in joint PP operations with the GIS, and we may not want to encourage Gehlen's expansion into the PP field for considerations contained in paragraph 6. Gehlen knows of our PP liaison with the West German Ministry For All-German Affairs and he has presumably a fairly good idea of our PP assets: we are therefore hardly able to refuse to negotiate with him on these matters, if he demands such negotiations.

6. In terms of

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6. In terms of policy objectives, there is no reason why we should oppose cooperation under the present circumstances: as long as Adenauer heads the West German Government and as long as U.S. foreign policy in Europe continues to coincide with Adenauer's policies, GIB-sponsored PP operations, especially into Eastern Germany, will presumably be in our interest. But this happy state of affairs is not likely to last: Adenauer will not remain chancellor forever and even now there are increasing policy differences in the making. It appears therefore desirable to maintain as many independent, unilateral PP assets in Germany as possible and to keep support of Gehlen's PP operations, if any, to the unavoidable minimum.

PP/OPS/G/PR

~~Atte~~
PP/OPS/PR: F 1: gvt
8 October 1956

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