

155/UTILITY

L T with @ KOLLER

10 May 1965

This brought up the question of what might happen to CATIDE as a whole if there were a change in Government. KOLLER was certain that no matter what happened UTILITY's days were numbered. He said that the position of Chief, CATIDE, was a political one and no Chancellor would fail to fill it with a man of his own political persuasion. In fact, he said that even if the CDU were to come out on top and Erhard should again be Chancellor he might decide to make a change although possibly not until a bit later (UTILITY will be 65, the normal time for retirement in April 1967). (Comment: This brings to mind some thoughts. While civil servants in Germany normally retire at 65, military personnel retire earlier. Generals at 60, Colonels 58, Lt. Col. 56, Majors at 54 and Captains at 52. Many CATIDERS who are officers on permanent assignment to CATIDE are very close to those retirement ages, some already above them, being kept on at the pleasure and insistence of UTILITY. If a new man came in he might have an opportunity to absolutely houseclean CATIDE by simply enforcing the rules as written. He could toss out a large number of senior officers and staff the organization out with his own Pretorian Guard.)

155/Gehlen, Reinhard

@Brock and []

3/4 May 1965

23. I asked Brock if he had heard any rumors on UTILITY's future and who his successor would be. He said no. He added that he did not believe Brig General Gerhard A. Wessel [] or @Holm would make a good chief of CATIDE. Both are too committed to UTILITY and would be unlikely to change the status quo or carry through the purge and housecleaning that CATIDE needs. Brock added that UTILITY would certainly try to continue influencing the new CATIDE chief and meddling in the intelligence business after he retires. No one who knows UTILITY expects him to drop his intelligence contacts and settle down quietly in Starnberg.

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