

Extract from Meeting with @Dessau on February 24, 1967

7. In referring to the future of General Wessel, he said that there are three possibilities open to him when he (Wessel) leaves Washington next September. He identified these possibilities as 1) assignment to a troop command, 2) continuation in his same role in Brussels, with the 3) third possibility being that of replacing General Gehlen as Chief of the BND. @DESSAU indicated that he favored the third possibility above any other.

8. This led to a discussion to a successor to Gehlen with @DESSAU stressing Wessel as his own personal favorite but noting that there have been two other names from completely outside the intelligence world which have been mentioned. He did not mention these names. He said that Wentdland was certainly still in the running if the choice falls to someone within the BND. He said that while Wentdland would not be as good a choice as Wessel, he did think that Wentdland would be quite good in the job. He said that Wentdland's biggest weakness was the lack of any operational or tactical experience and he pointed to Wentdland's career which has been almost entirely in the administrative field. @DESSAU then said that the best solution to the BND successor problem is Wessel and he indicated that it might be advantageous to have [] use any influence he might have to bring about such a solution. He said that he had told the "Doktor" of his opinion many times and he indicated that he planned to re-emphasize this to the "Doktor" when he visits Washington. He added [] that the "Doktor" would be staying at his house. I asked whether he had any recent word about the "Doktor's" visit and he said that the last which he had heard was April but, he continued, whereas the "Doktor" had not been able to come earlier because of problems in Germany, he now could not appropriately come too close on the heels of CIA's current difficulties.

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