

SECRET TELEPOUCH

TO- C/EUR INFO- COB/BERLIN, COB/HAMBURG, COB/FRANKFURT,  
C/MOB, C/MLB, USAREUR, USAFE, USEUCOM

FROM- COS/GERMANY

EGN-3272

INTEL

SUPDATA- NO PROJECT. [ ] TO [ ] ON 15 MARCH. SEE  
BONN 6103 OF 6 DECEMBER 1966 AND BONN 7712 OF 15  
MARCH 1967. NO INDEX. NOT FOR LIAISON.

FILED- 1300Z 20 MARCH 1967

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2005

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY- WEST GERMANY

DOI - 15 MARCH 1967

SUBJECT- DIFFICULTIES FACING THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE /BND/

ACQ - GERMANY, BONN /15 MARCH 1967/ FIELD NO. EGN-3272

SOURCE - A QUALIFIED AMERICAN OFFICIAL FROM A WEST GERMAN  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION.  
THE WEST GERMAN OFFICIAL IS AWARE THAT HIS  
STATEMENTS WILL REACH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.  
THE INFORMATION IS PROBABLY TRUE.

1. THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE /BND/ IS  
ENCOUNTERING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES--BOTH WITHIN ITS  
ORGANIZATION AND FROM GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN BONN.

2. SOME YOUNG BND STAFF MEMBERS COMPLAIN THAT SINCE THE  
CONVICTION OF HEINZ FELFE ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE, BND  
PRESIDENT GEHLEN HAS BECOME SO MISTRUSTFUL THAT HE HAS  
SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH OLD CROWIES FROM HIS "FREMDE HEERE OST"

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GROUP OF WORLD WAR II AND CLOSE RELATIVES. SUCH NEPOTISM AND THE MISMANAGEMENT WHICH IS INHERENT IN IT HAVE PRECLUDED THE PROMOTION OF MANY DESERVING MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICERS AND HAVE RESULTED IN A DECIDED DROP IN THEIR MORALE AND EFFECTIVENESS.

3. OUT OF THEIR DISSATISFACTION, BND STAFF MEMBERS HAVE SOLICITED THE ASSISTANCE OF WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIANS. ONE OF THE POLITICAL FIGURES WHO RESPONDED STRONGLY IS STATE SECRETARY FRIEDRICH SCHAEFER OF THE BUNDESRAT MINISTRY, WHO COMPLAINED TO CHANCELLERY STATE SECRETARY WERNER KNIEPER ABOUT MISMANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY IN THE BND. AFTER A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, KNIEPER ADVISED CHANCELLOR KIESINGER ABOUT THE PROBLEMS. KIESINGER THEN SUMMONED GEHLEN TO BONN ON 14 MARCH TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

4. FOR SOME TIME THE HEAD OF WEST GERMAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, ADMIRAL GUNTHER POSER, HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER ELEMENTS OF THE BND AND INCORPORATE THEM INTO AN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

5. BOTH THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GEHLEN AND THE EFFORTS OF POSER ARE BEING GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY CHANCELLOR

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KIESINGER, WHO IS GIVING THOUGHT TO CHANGING THE BMD MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH KIESINGER FACES IS THE LACK OF A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FOR GEHLEN.

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6. WHILE GEHLEN'S TWO DEPUTIES, HORST WENDLAND AND ERICH DETHLEFFSEN, ARE CONSIDERED VERY CAPABLE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, NEITHER HAS THE WELL-ROUNDED CAPABILITIES REQUIRED BY GEHLEN'S POSITION. WENDLAND IS RESPECTED AS AN EFFECTIVE MANAGER, BUT IS NOT SO HIGHLY THOUGHT OF IN THE FIELDS OF SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS. WHILE DETHLEFFSEN'S STRENGTH APPARENTLY IS IN THE FIELD OF SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED MANAGERIAL ABILITIES. ALSO, DETHLEFFSEN IS NEAR THE AOH OF RETIREMENT. IN THE PAST, GENERAL GERHARD WESSEL WAS OFTEN CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO GEHLEN, BUT SINCE WESSEL'S ASSIGNMENT TO THE STANDING NATO GROUP IN WASHINGTON, HE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PICTURE.

7. FIELD DISSEM- STATE, USAREUR, USAFE, USEUCOM.  
REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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