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22 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Central Intelligence
VIA: Deputy Director for Plans
SUBJECT: Planned Visit of General Gehlen to
Washington

1. It is suggested that you reply to the Director of Naval Intelligence along the following lines:

General Gehlen was indeed invited by the Director to visit Washington late last year. Immediately thereafter the government crisis arose in Germany which led ultimately to the fall of the Erhard government and the formation of the CDU/SPD coalition under Chancellor Kiesinger. General Gehlen understandably indicated his inability to accept the invitation at that time but expressed interest in making such a visit sometime this year.

All discussion of this invitation has been held directly between General Gehlen and the CIA Station Chief in Germany. At their most recent meeting in mid-March, General Gehlen again expressed his regret that he found himself still unable to set a firm date. He promised, however, to provide four to six weeks' advance notice of a proposed time for the visit.

Since plans for General Gehlen's visit have been so tentative, we have not yet discussed with him his desires respecting the agenda. We had assumed from the outset that he would be interested in spending some time with DIA. In any case, we shall advise DIA as soon as the timing becomes firm.

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2. For your own information (it is suggested that this speculation be kept within the Agency for the present):

a. We are at the moment rather skeptical that General Gehlen will visit Washington at all this year. The situation can change overnight, of course, but General Gehlen is still showing extreme hesitancy about leaving Germany and one gets the impression he may be heavily engaged in protecting his flanks with the new government. We doubt that General Gehlen has confided fully in [] and accordingly recommend against any direct comment on []'s remarks.

b. We further recommend that no written comment be made regarding []'s relations with []. Rather it is suggested the observation be made orally at an appropriate occasion that this matter continues to be of extreme sensitivity, and that it would be most helpful if Commander [] could avoid further meetings with [].

[]
Chief, European Division

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