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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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15. SUMMARY: (U) Report forwards summary of recent information concerning the successor to General Reinhard Gehlen (Ret), Chief of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) who is scheduled for retirement in April 1968.

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1. (U) General Reinhard Gehlen (Ret), Chief of the BND since its formation in 1956, was scheduled for retirement in April of this year (1967). However, due to various reasons resulting in inability to agree on his successor, he was extended on active service until April 1968. An article appearing in the 24 Jul 67 issue of Der Spiegel discusses his retirement and names Lt Gen Gerhard Wessel, currently serving as German Representative on the NATO Military Committee in Washington, as his most likely successor. The article discusses the relationship between Wessel and Gehlen during WWII and afterward points to Wessel's role during both periods as making him highly qualified for the job.

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... as a basis primarily Geisen's past refusal to allow SPD delegates to "look into" his organization and operation. The SPD reportedly is backing Swidbert Schnippenkoetter, German Ambassador for Disarmament and Arms Control, as Gehlen's replacement.

FIELD COORDINATION: None.

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