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COUNTRY	West Germany	REPORT NO.	CS-311/12308-67
SUBJECT	Delay in Appointment of Successor to General Gehlen	DATE DISTR.	1 December 1967
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A senior official of the West German Federal Intelligence Service who is in frequent contact with American intelligence officers in a liaison capacity. He obtained the information informally from General Wessel.

1. Lieutenant General Gerhard Wessel, German Military Representative to NATO in Brussels said he had just recently had a long and friendly discussion with Chancellor Kiesinger during which Kiesinger indicated that he had not changed his mind about eventually appointing General Wessel to succeed General Gehlen as president of the BND.[1] Kiesinger said, however, that for "political reasons" he intended to postpone the appointment as long as possible.

2. General Wessel commented that he was also being considered for appointment to a prominent army position (not further specified) and said he would accept whichever assignment he was given. He expressed satisfaction with his present duties in Brussels and said he had no anxiety about the future.

[1] Headquarters Comment: Chancellor Kiesinger's choices for the positions of President and Vice-President of the BND were reported in CS-311/11730-67.

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