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April 18, 1972

A. Van.

I would like to draw your attention on the New York Times Book Review of April 16, where a "former American Intelligence Officer" with the pseudonym Christopher Felix wrote quite a remarkable comment on two books which were recently published:

"The General was a Spy" by Heinz Hoehne and
Hermann Golling

"Gehlen - Spy of the Century" by E.H. Cookridge

In case you know this man I think he should be encouraged to do more comments in similar cases!

There is - unfortunately - only one recurrent allegation concerning the "many SS and Gestapo personal in the BND". This is absolutely untrue, since the spy Felde was the only one in the rather big Headquarter, and several others were outside in the field engaged with intelligence via their own channels against their own former people in Eastern Germany.

In the early 60s the BND discharged these people on a mostly voluntary mutual basis with some unimportant exceptions. As you probably know as an "alter Kenner", there were even among them people who tried to serve their country well, and had no "Dreck am Stecken".

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I understand that [redacted] is still busy with the history of our longstanding cooperation. So I would appreciate if you could forward this very informal note to him!

I really enjoyed seeing you in your spacious office.

Very cordially

yours,

PS: I think both books are basically poor products, full of sensations and half truth. But the truth is either too complicated or too dull to fascinate the average consumer.