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TO: C J, C I INFO DIRECTOR,

1. LATEST (3 OCT) ISSUE STERN MAGAZINE CONTAINS WHAT ARE CLAIMED TO BE EXCERPTS FROM THE "MERCKER" INVESTIGATIVE REPORT REGARDING THE BND PREPARED IN THE LAST PHASES OF THE GENERAL GEHLEN ERA. THE ARTICLE CITES IN PARTICULAR WIDESPREAD NEPOTISM, LISTING GEHLEN'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE EMPLOYED IN ONE STATUS OR ANOTHER BY THE BND AND ALSO MAKES REFERENCE TO INTERNAL POLITICAL OPERATIONS WHOSE PURPOSE ALLEGEDLY WAS TO PURCHASE SUPPORT FOR THE BND THROUGH PAYMENT OF RETAINERS AND TO BUILD UP BLACKMAIL CAPABILITY AGAINST PROMINENT WEST GERMANS, THIS LATTER EFFORT UNDER ALIAS LANGENDORF. ARTICLE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT SEVERAL JOURNALISTS MAY FACE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ON CHARGES OF INCOME TAX EVASION BECAUSE OF THEIR FAILURE TO LIST RETAINERS PAID THEM BY BND, WHICH RETAINERS WERE TERMINATED WHEN THE "SOCIAL LIBERAL" COALITION ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BND IN 1969.

2. ARTICLE CALLS TO MIND COMMENTS BY VP BLOETZ DURING RECENT MUNICH VISIT WHICH BROADLY HINTED AT COUNTEROFFENSIVE AGAINST GEHLEN. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IN THE STERN ARTICLE IS THE

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THREAT AGAINST JOURNALISTS WHICH MAY WELL BE AIMED AT VON NOUHUYS.

3. WITHOUT POSING ANY DIRECT QUESTIONS, PLEASE BE ALERT FOR ANY BACKGROUND YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ELICIT ABOUT THIS ARTICLE. VERY LIKELY [] KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AS HE DID ABOUT THE ARTICLE [] IN THE STERN SOME MONTHS AGO ABOUT VON NOUHUYS. E2-IMPDET