

General Heusinger's Views on  
German and European Rearmament

25 June 1953

Germany, Frankfurt am Main

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B21  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

GW1849  
25 June '53

A West German source in close contact with German generals. (B)

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Biddle?

1. Source saw General Adolf Heusinger, previous to his departure for the US with Theo Blank, in order to discuss operative problems, military training, equipment and installations. They do not intend to discuss questions of military policy as for instance an alternative to EDC.
2. The French, Heusinger said, suspected some US-German collusion. It would be wrong to irritate them but to keep them jealous might be useful since it could spur them to action. He rejected the French view that direct German contacts with the US were a violation of the European spirit. There always existed direct contacts between the Americans and the French, and Heusinger certainly welcomed them.
3. Heusinger told that he had found Generals Ridgway and Anthony Biddle rather annoyed by the levity of the French.
4. Heusinger had had a most enjoyable two-hour talk with Marshal Alphonse Juin who told him that he, Juin, as a soldier, would always tell everything he believed to be true, even if it be out of place politically.
5. The most important information Heusinger got from Juin was that the French Chamber, before ratifying the treaties, would demand an additional, that is a Seventh Protocol, establishing a period of transition from the national French Army to its merger with the European Army. At the beginning, everything should stay on a national basis. Juin asked for Heusinger's reaction. The latter replied that from a purely technical point of view, he saw some advantage in that provision but, of course, what would apply to the French must also apply to the German Army. Juin agreed heartily.
6. Heusinger added that the principal aim of the European union should never be lost sight of even if a NATO solution would take the place of EDC. He thought, he told Juin, fifty years ahead and then we cannot help recognize only a united Europe can withstand the growing population pressure from the East.
7. Heusinger, however, was disappointed that the start of German rearmament was again postponed, at least until the month of October.