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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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DATE 2008

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Heusinger-206

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Chief of Base, Bonn

INFO: EA

Operational

Contact Report - Herr AHLERS

Konrad

1. At the request of Herr AHLERS, Press Chief of the Amt Blank, I met with him for lunch at the Koenigshof Restaurant, Bonn, on 27 July 1953. He described in great detail the trip of the Blank Office group to the US. Interesting points in the discussion were:

a. The group was generally pleased with the reception and frankness of the American military officials. Two civilians making the best impression on the group were James Riddleberger and Allen Dulles. HEUSINGER was more than pleased to have been able to talk to Generals Bradley and Collins. A Colonel Zimmerman, of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Commanding Officer of Fort Benning, Georgia, and his deputy were mentioned in Heusinger's report for BLANK as first-class American leaders. The briefings at the Pentagon and Randolph Field, Texas, they described as first-class. HEUSINGER made two critical comments in his report on the trip. They are:

- (1) Lack of a proper reserve program. HEUSINGER feels that during peacetime the US Army does not do a sufficient amount of training of its reserves, and feels that all reserve units should be attached to permanent divisions so that in time of hostilities they can immediately be called to action instead of the cumbersome method of organizing new divisions.
- (2) The second criticism was his belief that there is not enough distinction between reserve officers and regular officers.

AHLERS admitted he did not quite understand this last criticism of HEUSINGER's in view of the fact that HEUSINGER commented favorably on the fact that in America advancement is generally based on ability.

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b. PANIENIE was more than pleased with the reception his counterparts in the US Air Force gave him and if he had the opportunity he would probably join the American Air Force.

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c. The only man in the group whom AHLERS considered somewhat of a misfit was HUCKELHEIM. AHLERS described him as being German to the core and belonging to the type of German who thinks everything German is good and everything non-German is no good.

d. Other details of their trip will not be listed here. One minor point, however,

which created some chukling in the German delegation concerned their reception at the Norfolk Naval Base. Upon entering the Officers' Club for dinner, the leader of the orchestra announced that in honor of the German guests the band would play the German National Anthem. After all guests stood up they proceeded to play "Die Wache am Rhein", a strongly anti-French tune. BLANK made a quick check and after determining there were no Frenchmen present breathed deeply and enjoyed his dinner.

2. AHLERS came back with a very positive opinion of the US and appreciated the reception given him by various newspapermen, the New York Herald Tribune and the Public Relations Section of the Pentagon.
3. Another matter which AHLERS brought up was the fact that the German Foreign Office is undergoing an investigation preparatory to ousting its homosexuals. AHLERS claims that the CDU discovered that the SPD was planning an election campaign attack on it for allowing a large number of homosexuals to be employed. In order to forestall this attack the Chancellor has secretly ordered a quick investigation to be made so that they can oust those members of the Foreign Office where evidence is available proving them to be homosexuals.
4. AHLERS pointed out that since BLANK's return from the States a certain amount of jealousy has arisen between BLANK and the Chancellor. This came to a head on Sunday, 26 July, when BLANK and the Chancellor were to jointly address 25,000 CDU members in Dortmund, BLANK's residential area. Five minutes before the meeting started, the Chancellor told BLANK he would speak alone. This deeply embittered BLANK especially after hearing from other CDU members that the Chancellor thought that in view of his successful US trip and his popularity in the Dortmund area, BLANK was getting too much publicity and sort of stealing the show from the Chancellor (this has been confirmed by [] and []).
5. The last matter that AHLERS brought up was the offer for close cooperation with us on press matters. AHLERS said he had excellent connections to Herr JACOBI, Bonn representative of the Spiegel, and that JACOBI in turn had considerable influence with Herr AUGSTEIN, Editor of the Spiegel. AHLERS said JACOBI could be counted on to cooperate in either keeping an article out of the Spiegel or, if for some reason we would like an article printed in the Spiegel, JACOBI could be called upon to get it into print. I have offered the AHLERS, and in turn JACOBI, connection to Sproston who will take the matter up with Parlett.
6. AHLERS also discussed the rumored naming of Theodore KESSEL as No. 2 man in the German Embassy in Washington. He said KESSEL joined the Blank party in Washington, allegedly to feel out his newly planned post. On returning KESSEL found that ADENAUER still had not acted on his appointment and is waiting until he determines whether KESSEL's brother, who is Deputy head of the Refugee Party BHE, will react to ADENAUER's overtures to join the CDU in the election campaign. In other words, the Chancellor will only make a decision after KESSEL's brother toes the line. Another rumor as to why KESSEL is not being named is because of the allegations against him for being a homosexual. As mentioned previously, the Foreign Office is undergoing an investigation to unearth individuals of this type and his appointment may be held up because of it.

30 July 1953

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