

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE: Well placed source (B), from interviews with Heusinger. Appraisal of Content: 3

1. Lt. Gen. Adolf Heusinger now thinks it is likely that the new German army will reach its goal of a strength of 96,000 men by early 1957. The number of voluntary enlistments is increasing, and the men already serving are helping to recruit additional men. Volunteering is rendered more attractive by a new plan under which volunteers will get more pay than conscripts. However, there is a shortage of junior officers and qualified non-commissioned officers. Heusinger hopes that some conscripts will elect to stay in the army, and that these will form a reservoir from which a sufficient number of non-commissioned officers may be drawn in future years.
2. There is believed to be practically no chance of persuading the Bundestag to approve the 18-month term of service for conscripts. Heusinger points out that this question presents a serious political problem for Chancellor Adenauer, since his own party is split over the issue. A proposal recently made by the Ministry of Defense for twelve months of service, to be followed by two months' active reserve service every year for five years, seems acceptable to Gen. Heusinger.
3. A new officer is to be appointed, with the rank of major general, as Chief of Staff of the Army. The position as head of the "joint staff" now held by General Hans Speidel may be abolished, and the Defense Ministry hopes to assign Speidel as Commander of Army Units, Central Europe (replacing the French Marshal Juin). Otherwise, few changes are expected in the top leadership of the German Army in the near future. It should be noted that there has been an intense rivalry between Heusinger and Speidel.
4. The support which the German Army has received from the United States is considered excellent. The Germans are particularly pleased with the delivery of armaments, such as M-47 tanks. There has recently been a little difficulty about the procurement of replacement parts, but Heusinger says he thinks this difficulty will be resolved in the near future. Support of training and facilities has gone less smoothly; German officials feel that there is too much red tape involved in getting support from local units, which under present procedure requires USAREUR approval.

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5. In spite of the known SPD opposition to conscription, Heusinger does not consider it likely that the next election will result in abolition of the draft, even if a coalition is formed by the SPD, FDP, and BHE. Thus, he does not believe that the remilitarization of West Germany will be decisively influenced by internal political developments.

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