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HEUSINGER/201
740.5/11-3059/

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmComGen HAMBURG

166
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 30, 1959

REF :

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	REC'D	OTHER
18	EUR-9	RM/R-2, IRC-F, W/MSC-3, S/AE-7
12/3		CIA-10, OSD-4, ARMY-4, NAVY-3, AIR-1

SUBJECT: General HEUSINGER Warns Against German Withdrawal From NATO During CDU Sponsored Appearance at Bad Segeberg.

W-5 file

At a gathering of about 350 persons in the ballroom of the Hotel Germania in Bad Segeberg on November 26, Bundeswehr Inspector General Adolf Heusinger spoke on "Die Strategische Weltlage und die deutsche Situation," during which he warned against any attempt to maneuver the Bundesrepublik out of the NATO alliance. The General's appearance was sponsored by the Schleswig-Holstein Christlich-Demokratische Union as one in a series of its "Segeberger Gespräche" which usually take the form of a discussion forum.

General Heusinger stated that in view of possible disarmament agreements in the future, the Western powers should be wary of "taking the sharpness from their atomic sword before the conventional sword of the East is similarly dulled," adding that it is also dangerous to conclude any military agreements without political guarantees. He noted that this would not be possible until a basis for mutual trust has been achieved.

During his lecture Heusinger gave a summary of the world strategic situation in approved War College fashion, utilizing a large United States Air Force global projection map and another of Europe upon which the relative strength and position of Western and Eastern forces were tabulated.

The General observed that Europe alone is not capable of becoming a third military bloc between the Western and Eastern concentrations of power. He also stated his belief that the Soviets are not interested in engaging in a hot war.

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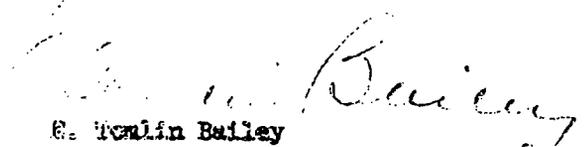
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On the other hand Heusinger stated that the West should avoid any impulsive attempt toward a solution. He deplored the tendency at times in the Bundesrepublik to disparage politicians, legislators and high-ranking officers which he attributed to communists who are attempting to disseminate mistrust among the population. He urged elections and not elections aimed to create a softening from within.

The General was introduced by General BIRN, who is the director of the Segeberger Gespräch program. Contrary to the usual practice, no forum discussion followed General Heusinger's talk.

Although invitations to the session were issued in the name of Minister-President and Land Party Chairman Kai Uwe von HASSEL, the latter was absent that day because of his participation at a Berlin assembly of the Kuratorium Unteilbares Deutschland. He was represented at Bad Segeberg by Dr. Helmut LEMKE (CDU), Schleswig-Holstein Minister of Interior.


E. Tomlin Bailey
American Consul General

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