

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany  
 SUBJECT Replacement of Johannes Becher, Minister for Culture  
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- Johannes Becher, East German Minister for Culture, will probably be removed from that position and replaced by Alfred Kurella.<sup>1</sup> Kurt Barthel will become the State Secretary.
- The final decision is to be announced at the East German Cultural Conference scheduled for 25 October 1957. Becher may be permitted to retire, and to announce his retirement plans, before that date.

1. Field Comment: Kurella, born 2 May 1895 in Brieg/Silesia, is reported as Director of the Institut fuer Literatur in Leipzig. He is a frequent contributor to the SED magazine, Einheit, on subjects concerning Communist theory in literature and allied fields.

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