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February 4, 1957

TO: The Department of State, Washington

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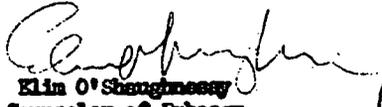
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SUBJECT: Biographic Data - Arno Scholz

State

As an enclosure to this despatch are biographic comments on Arno SCHOLZ, publisher and editor of the Berlin Telegraph, who will be accompanying SPD Chairman Erich OLLERHAUER and Fritz HEINE, SPD Press Chief, to the United States on February 10.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:


Elia O'Shaughnessy
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: Biographic Data Report

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BIOGRAPHIC DATA REPORT - ARNO SCHOLZ (SPD)

Present Position: Publisher and Editor of the Berlin Telegraf.

Date and Place of Birth: February 22, 1904, Berlin/Neukoelln

Immediate Family: Married; no children

Religion: No church affiliation

Educations:

After completing "Mittelschule" (intermediate studies not leading to an Abitur), Scholz studied political science and economics. He also had practical training as a mechanic and commercial clerk in a publishing house.

Career:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1921 | Political journalist for the <u>Berliner Vorwarts</u> , a Socialist daily; also publisher of a daily editorial service. |
| 1930 - July 1933 | Chief editor of the Social Democratic newspaper <u>Volkswille</u> at Hannover. |
| July 1933 - 1936 | Unemployed - for political reasons license to work as a journalist revoked. |
| 1936 - 1938 | Operated advertising service. |
| 1938 - Sept 1945 | Worked for a stereotype plate producing factory. |
| Sept 1945 - 1946 | Editor of <u>Der Berliner</u> , a newspaper of the British Military Government. |
| May 1946 to date | Publisher and chief editor of the Berlin <u>Telegraf</u> , a pro-SPD newspaper. |

Military Service: Deferred because of employment in essential industry.

Nazi Party Affiliations: Not a member of the Nazi Party

Facility in English: Does not speak English

Physical Appearance and Personality Traits:

Arno Scholz is a short, stout man, with a receding hair line. Although he has a merry and sparkling personality, fundamentally he is a serious, shrewd,

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Physical Appearance and Personality Traits (Continued)

and somewhat opportunistic journalist. Energetic and hard working he more or less supervises the publication of the Berlin Telegram, publishes several smaller newspapers, and always has a book in the mill. In addition, he puts a lot of effort into SPD activities.

Intelligence: (John E. McCowan, FUR/OD, Ambassy Bonn)

Arno Scholz is keenly intelligent. He is extremely well read, especially in German history and the Socialist movement in Germany. He likes to and frequently brings his knowledge of these subjects into the conversation.

Attitude Toward the US: ((John E. McCowan)

Arno Scholz is favorably inclined toward the US. At the same time, however, he is sharply critical of what he terms its shortcomings, especially its attitude toward Communism. He doesn't think the US fights Communism enough, contending that Americans don't understand the mentality of Communists.

Attitude Toward Communism: (Karl F. Mautner, PA/USBERLIN)

Scholz is a shrewd, intelligent, anti-Communist, who believes it is essential to work on Berlin Soviet and satellite officials in the lower echelon for infiltration of Western and democratic Socialist ideas into their system, and to make them, where possible, report home what the West wants Moscow to hear. With these ideas in mind, Scholz has been giving a series of lectures on his East Asia trip with Ollenhauer, to which are invited Allied as well as Soviet and satellite officials. There follows a rather interesting and thoughtful run down of Scholz' SPD views of East Asian problems, supplemented with excellent color slides which add considerable life to his lectures. This gives an opportunity, says Scholz, to expound the West's position vis-a-vis the Soviet guests. He thinks it is necessary that those people who only get the sycophantic report of pro-Communist informers, are given the atmosphere that truly exists, and are shown that they cannot subdue the indomitable Berliners; that it would be best for them to adjust to the realities of life and make a deal for freedom of the East Zone.

Recently Scholz attempted to present his lectures at an East Sector SPD gathering. He was bitterly criticized by the East SED, which started a slander campaign. As a result, Scholz compromised by giving his lecture for East Sector SPD men in a border meeting hall in West Berlin. No doubt, this made good newspaper propaganda, but at the same time it was against the general SPD policy

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regarding speaking tours of prominent West SPD people in East Berlin's SPD local headquarters, for the reason that it tends to make the East Sector look more democratic than it is. Thus sometimes Scholz shows enough fuzedness in his tactics to cause some people in the West to hold their breath.

Relations with Allied Authorities in Berlin (James R. Ruchti E/EP, AmEmb Bonn)

In the first five years of Allied occupation of Berlin, Scholz was reported several times by the Allied Kommandatura for his outspoken opinion on local Berlin issues. Although it is difficult to evaluate his motives, it was felt that for the most part he deliberately sought an Allied reprimand from time to time in order to enhance his personal prestige within the SPD and with his readers. In contrast, however, he has made a noteworthy contribution to the joint German-Allied effort in Berlin against the USSR and the East German regime.

Relations with the SPD (James R. Ruchti)

Arvo Scholz for many years has taken an active part in SPD politics. However, he has never held a prominent office in the SPD, and to many younger members of the party he represents the opportunistic journalist who exploits his party affiliations for his personal gains. A supporter of the party line (Reumann group) in the Berlin SPD, Scholz frequently found himself at odds with Ernst Reuter over SPD policies in Berlin and in the Federal Republic as well. His acceptability to Ollenbuer stems in a large part from his support of SPD West German policies including opposition to the Coal and Steel Community and the European Defense Community, even though both of these projects were favored by a majority of the SPD in Berlin. Scholz is not a member of Ollenbuer's group for travel to the US because he is one of the leading Socialist personalities in Germany. Rather he is paying his own way. An "idea" man, always on the lookout for "new projects", Scholz plans to collect information and impressions to be used in a pamphlet or book which he reportedly plans to write on Ollenbuer's trips abroad, including his visit to the Far East in the fall of 1956 and the approaching trip to the US. Such a publication would meet the SPD objective of popularizing Ollenbuer at no costs to the party.

Source: Biographic Files

Contributors: Mr. J. McGovern, Pub/OD, AmEmbassy, Bonn
James R. Ruchti, E/EP, AmEmbassy, Bonn
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