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Personnel Developments at the BfV

Reference: EGNA 14551, 13 March 1958

1. It is becoming increasingly evident from recent personnel changes and statements of various BfV members, that President SCHROEDERS is pushing ahead with his policy of placing people with legal training (Juristen or Volljuristen) in all the key jobs at the BfV. This view of the personnel replacement problem has been expounded by SCHROEDERS since his takeover at the BfV. It has been severely criticized by those BfVniks who are not Juristen and has been one of the main causes of poor morale at the BfV. We have often pointed out to SCHROEDERS that an inflexible application of this concept could prove detrimental rather than beneficial but he remained quite unmoved by such arguments. During a briefing given Vinchurch on 18 March, SCHROEDERS pointed out several boxes in an organizational chart (among them the BIS CE Evaluation section headed by Konrad KOCH, the MfS CE Evaluation section headed by Christian HOFMANN and the Satellite CE Evaluation section headed by Dr. Karl WIBLERS) and stated that eventually he intended to have these sections headed by Juristen. He added that "one can always use young lawyers in this business."

2. Konrad KOCH recently informed us that in connection with SCHROEDERS policy, Christian HOFMANN was being relieved of his job as head of the MfS CE Evaluation Section and transferred to the BfV's School. HOFMANN later confirmed this fact, adding that he was to be replaced by Dr. Richard MEIER () of EGNA 14249 early this Fall. (We had seen MEIER shortly after he appeared on the scene at the BfV in the early months of 1958 and noticed that he was working in a variety of offices. Fritz MICHEL once mentioned that MEIER had been given the job of rehashing the old Rote Kapelle material for the BfV and observed dryly that here was MEIER, not yet dry behind the ears in the intelligence game, taking up a job that practically required a lifetime of study.) HOFMANN took the opportunity to deliver a tirade on the assiduity of the Juristen approach to the personnel problem and ticked off as examples of the error of SCHROEDERS' policy the cases of Guenther GENERIC whom he described as a moron, Heinrich ESSELING, a lazy good-for-nothing, Otto RUNDEL, a fool. HOFMANN said it made no difference who succeeded him but that it should be someone who had a thorough knowledge of the MfS, a subject which he, HOFMANN had spent 6 years on and about which MEIER knew nothing. HOFMANN added that he would attempt to do an outstanding job at the school and acquire so much general knowledge that he would be indispensable to the BfV. He fears that when his year or two at the School is up, he will be politely informed that there are no jobs open for him in his old section since all have been filled with Juristen. Needless to say, HOFMANN is embittered at

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the transfer. We can only conclude that the BFV's coverage in the WIS field will suffer considerably from the change, at least initially.

3. More recently, KOCH confidentially revealed another shocker. Fritz MICHEL, deputy chief of the BFV's CR Department and head of the Evaluation Section of that Department is being transferred out of his job. KOCH was unable or perhaps unwilling to provide any details. He mentioned Karl ESCHWEILLER as a possible successor to MICHEL. KOCH repeatedly emphasized the sensitivity of this information. We will try to obtain additional details on this matter which we have as yet not had confirmed from any other sources.

4. Dr. Karl BERGMANN's transfer, mentioned in paragraph 1b of reference, was apparently also connected with SCHRUEBERS' policy since the man who replaced him, Dr. Hans Josef HURCHEM (26 August 1927 in Erf) is also a Jurist.

5. KOCH recently told ROSEMANN in our presence, that Hans-Joachim PIETSCH had again become involved in a flap which clearly demonstrated his operational incompetence (the last flap that we know of in which he was involved was the Elly KINDERMANN case in which it is alleged that he took the rap for Richard GOSKAM). It seems that PIETSCH came up with a CR lead presumably involving sabotage or the suspicion thereof, and promptly committed virtually all of the BFV's available operational assets to running down leads, surveillance etc. (KOCH mentioned operational expenses in the thousands of Marks.) He did all this without even having checked the BFV's files (i.e., the evaluation side of the shop) and was subsequently informed by the LfV Nordrhein-Westfalen (which had been in on the case) that they couldn't understand why the BFV was making such a fuss about the principal figure in the case, since he had been mentioned in the BFV's Intelligence Swindler Burn Notice in 1955. Fritz TEJESSEY, Chief of the LfV NRW, who is the BFV's arch-enemy to begin with, took great delight in personally calling SCHRUEBERS on the matter. SCHRUEBERS is supposed to have used the case as an example of why Collection and Evaluation must work together during a recent section chief's meeting. From what we understand, PIETSCH is in the doghouse and many in the BFV are rejoicing in his misfortune.

6. Dr. Hans Carl Hermann NITHACK, last reported as having been transferred to the Vorpruefungsgruppe in Berlin (EGNA 14 November 1956) is back in Koeln, this time as a permanent instructor at the BFV's school.

7. The personnel shifts mentioned in paragraphs 1 through 3 above, have not been without effect on the BFV's not directly involved. KOCH claims these personnel actions are the handwriting on the wall and is convinced that he is next on the list of those to be replaced by a Jurist. Ernst ROSEMANN and Heinrich WEYDE are equally despondent. Dr. Karl MUEHLEN, who has his doctorate in economics also feels that he may be replaced soon. The matter is discussed quite freely and

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heatedly among the non-Juristen and at a recent dinner for those members of the CE Department with whom we have frequent dealings (none of whom were Juristen) it became quite obvious that they have formed a clique which takes great delight in ridiculing the young Assessoren (the rank of the Juristen who join the BfV without prior experience). A good part of the evening was devoted to jokes about the Assessoren in which they invariably were described as nincompoops. (Sort of the 2nd Lieutenants of the German Civil Service.) It might be logical to conclude that the Juristen also have formed a groups as a counter-move to the hate-the-Juristen campaign, and we have some indications that this may be true. Otto RUNDEL, an Assessor, recently called to ask (of all the incredible brass) why he hadn't been invited to the above dinner and whether Richard GERKEN had had a hand in making up the list of invitations. It appeared that RUNDEL might have been the spokesman for a group of Assessoren which presumably would have included at least MEIER and GEHRING. We plan to watch developments along these lines quite closely in the months ahead and will do everything possible not to be caught in the middle of the polarisation of these two groups within the BfV.

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