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DOCUMENT_ID: 42413275
INQNO: DOC10D 00326082
DOCNO: TEL 003142 88
PRODUCER: USBERLIN
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19881031
TOR: 104411
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198810310951
MHFNO: 88 0794914
DOCCLASS: C
CAVEATS: FOUO

HEADER

RR RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS6509
RR RUEHC
DE RUFHJA #3142/01 3050952
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 310951Z OCT 88
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6281
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 7444
INFO RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY EMBBERLIN 4432
RUFHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 8447
RUDKHB/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 5542
RUFHMU/AMCONSUL MUNICH 3586
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RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 8913
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RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 8711
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USBERLIN 03142

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TEXT

TAGS: PGOV, BZ, PINR, GE, PREL
SUBJECT: THREE MEMBERS OF CDU YOUTH GROUP SENTENCED
FOR NAZI ACTS

REF: USBERLIN 2003

1. SUMMARY. THREE MEMBERS OF THE BERLIN JUNGE UNION, THE CDU YOUTH GROUP, WERE CONVICTED FOR DISPLAYING NAZI SYMBOLS, SINGING THE HORST-WESSEL SONG, AND PROVOCATIVELY INSULTING THE SPD AND HEINZ GALINSKI (LEADER OF THE BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL IN GERMANY). THESE ACTIONS, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT A JU

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain class'n Change/classify to _____
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EO 12958, 25X _____ Date: 8/30/01
IPS/CR/IR by _____

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1986/87 NEW YEAR'S PARTY, WERE ONLY REPORTED BY A RIVAL RIGHT-WING FACTION OF THE ORGANIZATION THE FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEMPELHOF DISTRICT JU LEADERSHIP ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE TRIAL JUDGE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE CONDUCT WAS REPORTED SO LATE, AND ONLY AS AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN PLOY. CONFLICTS BETWEEN JUNGSOZIALISTEN (JUSOS) AND THE JU OVER ALLEGED RIGHT-WING TENDENCIES IN THE JU CAUSED THE RESIGNATION OF THE MODERATE JU HEAD OF THE UMBRELLA POLITICAL YOUTH GROUP, THE BERLIN RING POLITISCHER JUGEND. THIS INTERNAL SQUABBLE COULD DEVELOP INTO AN ELECTION ISSUE, PUSHED ESPECIALLY BY THE ISSUE-STARVED SPD. END SUMMARY.

2. THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE TEMPELHOF DISTRICT JUNGE UNION, NOW 18, 19, AND 25 YEARS OLD, WERE CONVICTED OF HAVING SUNG THE HORST-WESSEL SONG, PARTICIPATED IN A GROUP CHORUS OF "SIEG HEIL" AND RAISING THEIR ARMS IN THE HITLER SALUTE. THEY ALSO BORROWED THE TUNE OF THE "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC," RETITLED AS "THE DAY OF THE REVOLUTION," USING SUCH CATCHY LYRICS AS "WE'LL FILL OUR SWIMMING POOL WITH SPD BLOOD" AND "WE'LL HANG HEINZ GALINSKI FROM THE SYNAGOGUE."

3. USE OF NAZI SYMBOLS IS UNLAWFUL UNDER THE GERMAN CONSTITUTION AND ALLIED LAW, AND THE INSULTS TO THE SPD AND GALINSKI WERE PROSECUTED UNDER THE STATUTES FORBIDDING INSULTS DAMAGING TO REPUTATION. GALINSKI ALSO PERSONALLY PRESSED CHARGES STEMMING FROM THESE ACTS. THE TRIALS WERE CONSOLIDATED IN JUVENILE COURT, NOTWITHSTANDING THAT ONE OF THE ACCUSED WAS A LEGAL ADULT AT THE TIME OF THE ACTS IN QUESTION.

4. THE ELDEST OF THE DEFENDANTS, WHO WAS SEEN AS THE LEADER OF THE THREE, WAS GIVEN A FINE OF DM 8,400. THE YOUNGER DEFENDANTS WERE SENTENCED TO A WEEKEND IN JUVENILE DETENTION, AND MUST MAKE A STUDY TRIP TO A SITE OF NAZI TERROR, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COURT.

5. THESE ACTS WERE FIRST REPORTED LAST SEPTEMBER BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF A RIVAL RIGHT-WING FACTION OF THE TEMPELHOF DISTRICT JUNGE UNION DURING ITS LEADERSHIP ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE TESTIMONY OF THE ACCUSERS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE REPORTING OF THIS CONDUCT WAS IN PURSUIT OF ELECTION ADVANTAGE OVER THE FACTION WHICH INCLUDED THE ACCUSED, AND THAT THE TIMING WAS SUCH AS TO CAUSE THE GREATEST IMPACT. THE JUDGE, DURING SENTENCING, NOTED THAT THE ACCUSERS HAD NOT ACTED FROM SYMPATHETIC MOTIVES, AND STATED THAT HE FOUND IT SHOCKING AND ALARMING THAT AN ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE LEADERS WAS EXPOSED TO SUCH A DANGEROUS LESSON IN THE CREATION OF ELECTORAL MAJORITIES.

6. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL STRIFE BETWEEN THE JUNGSOZIALISTEN (JUSOS) AND THE JU OVER THE JU'S ALLEGED RIGHT-WING TENDENCIES HAS CAUSED THE RESIGNATION OF SABINE KRAUSE AS CHAIRMAN OF BERLIN'S

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UMBRELLA YOUTH ORGANIZATION, THE RING POLITISCHER JUGEND. KRAUSE WAS KNOWN AS A MODERATE IN THE JU, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE FACTION WHICH LOST LEADERSHIP OF THE JU TO RIGHT-WINGERS LAST NOVEMBER. THE NEW HEAD OF THE RPJ WILL BE 21 YEAR OLD POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT MATTHIAS EICHOFF, A MEMBER OF THE JUNGEN LIBERALEN (ONE OF THE FDP RELATED YOUTH GROUPS). EICHOFF WAS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY, AS A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE.

7. COMMENT. THE STEADY MOVE TO THE RIGHT OF THE
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PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATION IN RECENT YEARS IS BEING PUBLICLY IGNORED BY THE PARENT CDU IN THIS ELECTION YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS OF LONG TERM CONCERN TO SOME OF THE LEADERS OF THE PARTY, INCLUDING DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN KLAUS LANDOWSKY (HIMSELF A FORMER HEAD OF THE JU), WHO PERSONALLY LEAD A CONCERTED BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO ASSURE MODERATE LEADERSHIP OF THE JU IN ITS ELECTION LAST NOVEMBER. OTHER POLITICAL ACTORS IN THE CITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE SPD, BELIEVE THAT THE CDU IS DELIBERATELY AND CYNICALLY DOWNPLAYING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SWING TO THE RIGHT IN THE JU (IE, "KIDS WILL BE KIDS"), AND NOT ADDRESSING THE DANGERS OF INCREASED NEO-NAZI ATTITUDES AND TENDENCIES IN ORGANIZED PARTY YOUTH.

8. WELL PUBLICISED INCIDENTS LIKE THE UGLY HIJINCKS IN THE NEW YEAR'S EVE CASE AND SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS REGARDING A JU TRIP TO THE WEST WHICH HAS YET TO COME TO TRIAL HAVE DONE A LOT TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE BERLIN JUNGE UNION. JU'ERS HAVE ALSO TAKEN TO SHOWING UP AT LECTURES AND MEETINGS AND EXPRESSING STRONG RIGHT-WING VIEWPOINTS, FOR INSTANCE INDICATING SUPPORT FOR THE ALLEGED NAZI ACTIVITIES OF **KURT WALDHEIM** DURING THE QUESTION PERIOD AFTER A LECTURE BY THE AUSTRIAN CONSUL GENERAL. THE BESMIRCHING OF THE JU'S REPUTATION HAS AS YET NOT RUBBED OFF ON THE PARENT PARTY. BUT AS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, THE YOUTH GROUPS MAY BE DRIVING THE PARENT PARTIES ON THIS ISSUE, AND THE INTERNAL SQUABBLE OVER RIGHT-WING ACTIVITIES AND TENDENCIES NOW FESTERING BETWEEN THE JUSOS AND THE JU IN THE RPJ COULD SPREAD TO THE GENERAL ELECTORATE, ESPECIALLY DURING AN ELECTION WHERE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE SEARCHING FOR CAMPAIGN ISSUES AGAINST THE CDU. END COMMENT.
GILMORE

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END OF MESSAGE

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