

29 January 1957

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TO: T.C. Hughes

FROM:

SUBJ: ~~YANK~~ Talks with President SCHRUEBEERS

1. On 6 December 1956 I had a general talk with SCHRUEBEERS which covered some of the same material reported in your memo. The following supplementary comments may be of interest to you:
 - a. In discussing a talk I had had at the Ministry of Interior in November, SCHRUEBEERS said he had heard I mentioned some dissatisfaction at the BfV. He said indeed there had been some unrest, but that this was largely the result of the helter-skelter personnel policy which had been permitted by his predecessors as illustrated by the 133 recommendations for promotion he had found on his desk soon after he took over. Clearly not all these people were eligible for promotion; many were already overpaid and he had made this clear in a couple of full scale meetings. At these meetings he pointed out that those deserving people will be promoted at the appropriate time, by which he meant when merit has been demonstrated and when the job at the appropriate level is open. He has no intention, however, of promoting people without the requisite academic background to the higher career service in any but exceptional cases. He does want all Referenten to be career officers.
 - b. Although he has frozen promotion actions pending the reorganization and further study, he did succeed in getting JUNJJOHANN regularized; the question of MICHEL is on ice temporarily (comment: MICHEL himself has told me his exam is coming up shortly now); REINHOLD's case is constituting something of a problem which may take a little time to iron out.
 - c. SCHRUEBEERS commented on the variety of problems confronting him. In doing so he again left the clear impression that if a suitable person were available he would gladly be rid of RADKE. He said that he has a regular program of visiting the LfV's to try and improve relations with them. With what time he has left, he must settle organizational problems, many of which take him to the Ministry. He confirmed that he has a high degree of confidence in Herbert POLENZ, who he feels has quickly grasped the core of the matter, although he is still quite new. He is quite concerned about the problem of a coordinator to pull the work of the 4 operational departments together, and at this time still hoped to get von SENGER, who he said very much wanted to return. (Comment: As you know, SENGER is not coming back and the appointment of BESSEL-LORCK now seems certain.)

2. On 16 January I again saw SCHRUEBEERS briefly. Of this conversation, only the following squibs are worth -----
 - a. He was to see (Dr.) Max GUEDE, Oberbundesanwalt, the following week concerning the questioning of Otto JOHN on the intelligence aspects of his sojourn in Soviet hands. He thought it might not be a bad idea to send RADKE to do this, although I questioned whether RADKE might not be too emotionally affected to do this job justice. SCHRUEBEERS said he had not yet made up his mind on this point.
 - b. Referring to the article in the Rheinischer Merkur I commented I was glad to note this was the only instance known to me of press sniping at the BfV after

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the trial. He agreed and reiterating his dismay at the subjective character of the testimony of RABKE and GERKEN, said he was aware of no plans to remove or replace them at the moment. However, he had seen a Bonn news sheet called the SCHMIDT Dienst of 8 January, saying that RABKE was being relieved and that two department chiefs reassigned as a result of their testimony at the JOHN trial. This report had no foundation in fact as far as he knew, nor did anyone at the Ministry to whom he had talked know of any such plans.

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