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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)
SUBJECT Belief that Communists Are Using von Schill Postage Stamp in Propaganda Effort To Foster German Nationalistic Feeling against France

REPORT NO

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- 1. [Redacted] was a stamp with a horseback picture of Ferdinand Baptista von Schill. It was a large stamp (same as UE special delivery), magenta color, of GDR420 denomination. I was astonished to see this particular design -- and I believe it is highly significant in evaluating present political tactics by the Communist regime.
2. Ferdinand von Schill was commander of the "Schill Hussaren" during the Napoleonic wars early in the 19th century. His exploits against the French made German history. However, he was long forgotten until Hitler's historians dug back into the past and revived what could be called "old memories." Anyhow, Hitler's aim was to revive German nationalism or super nationalism by telling the German people what a glorious past they had. It was also designed to kindle the hatred of the French. Hitler succeeded, and in 1937 every school textbook carried the Schill story. Books about Schill appeared in the bookshops. He was again a hero. He victoriously fought the French -- a great national hero in the eyes of the Nazi propagandists.
3. When Communist education "specialists" began turning out new school textbooks for the East German schools, all reference to Germany's past was deleted. Poems by Schiller, whose nationalism and so-called "love for freedom" were contained in much of his work, were taboo. Instead, the

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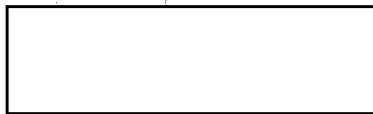
Communists made an attempt to sell the Soviet Army and the "glorious" past of Communism to the Germans. This involved many strategies. Huge pictures of Communist leaders and Soviet heroes decorated East German cities which were so lit up by colorful red stars that many of them looked like amusement parks. The Germans didn't go for that, and this carnival-type display was made the subject of many anti-Communist jokes.

4. It seems to me that the Communists now have resorted to another means of "getting" the Germans. If this postage stamp is any indication, they are using the old Hitler tactics -- namely, to revive the old nationalism.
5. This, in my opinion, is very serious. I believe these tactics are designed to stir up once more the hatred toward the French by making Schill an East German patriot, thus a Communist patriot. If this present campaign is intensified, it could very well block France's participation in EDC. I believe that this is the real aim behind this strategy. The words at the top of the stamp -- Deutsche Patrioten -- indicate to me that the stamp is only one of a series.
6. I don't think you could go wrong in watching this situation. If this campaign continues, hard-hitting commentaries over RIAS and the Voice might break its back.
7. The 1948 Encyclopedia Britannica contains the following on von Schill:

SCHILL, Ferdinand Baptista von (1776-1809), Prussian soldier, was born in Saxony. Entering the Prussian cavalry at the age of 12, he was still a subaltern of dragoons when he was wounded in the battle of Auerstadt. At Kolberg he played a very prominent part in the celebrated siege of 1807. After the peace of Tilsit he was given the command of a Hussar regiment. In 1809 the political situation in Europe appeared to Schill to favor an attempt to liberate his country from the French domination. Leading out his regiment from Berlin under pretext of maneuvers, he raised the standard of revolt, and marched for the Elbe. At Duedorf (5 May 1809) he had a brush with the Magdeburg garrison, but was soon driven northwards where he hoped to find British support. With little more than his original force Schill was surrounded by five thousand Danish and Dutch troops in the neighborhood of Wismar. He escaped by hard fighting (action of Damgarten, 24 May) to Stralsund. The Danes and Dutch soon hemmed him in, and by sheer numbers overwhelmed the defenders (31 May). Schill himself was killed.

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