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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany/Berlin

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SUBJECT Organization of the Berlin Police

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SUPPLEMENT



1. The organization of the Police, as established in May 1945 and still functioning, is briefly as follows: The head of the police is the Police President, with headquarters in the Police Praesidium. Under the Police President, there are three main branches: Administrative; Criminal; and Security Police. Actual police work is being carried out by the Criminal Police (Kripo), which is equivalent to the plainclothes detective force in U.S. cities, and the Security Police (Schutzpolizei), the uniformed constabulary. Under the central authority of the Praesidium there are twenty police inspectorates, one for each administrative borough of the city. These inspectorates are, to a considerable degree, autonomous, and their organization parallels that of the Praesidium. The inspectorates control a number of precincts within their administrative borough, the number of police installations varying with the size of the local population.
2. Allied agreements on the governing of Berlin have established the basic principles regarding police procedure, and it was the original intention to prevent this large, indigenous, organized and armed body from becoming a political pressure group. Time, however, showed conclusively that the four occupying powers did not see eye-to-eye on the use of the police force, and it was decided to redistribute police power according to national sectors, but at the same time preserve that part of the central authority which was essential to maintain adequate law enforcement. On the whole, the basic aim which the British and American military governments hoped to realize, was to have exclusive control over the police personnel in their own sector, and thereby eliminate the considerable Communist influence which permeated all ranks, and which was maintained by the Western Allies' inability to effect the discharge of some of the key personnel in the Praesidium appointed to the force by the Soviets during the time when they were the sole occupying power in Berlin.
3. It was, therefore, agreed that the principle of unanimous agreement to discharge or employ police officials will be maintained wherever the official in question had jurisdiction over more than one sector of the city, but that four special assistants to the Police President will be appointed - one for each sector, by the occupying power - and these officials, called Sector Chiefs, will be solely responsible for the personnel policies in their particular sector, and that the Police President and the Commandant of the Security Police will be authorized to effect changes in personnel only after obtaining clearance from the appropriate Sector Chief. The Sector Chiefs will be directly subordinated to the Public Safety Officer of their Sector, and will be authorized to suspend, but not discharge, personnel, without the Police President's approval. This meant, in

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effect, that it was only a question of time before the U.S. Sector, where the Public Safety Officer was wide-awake politically, was cleaned of Communists in leading police positions. It has also made it practically impossible to assign politically insecure policemen to the U.S. Sector, since the Sector Chief would not grant clearance without obtaining the approval of the Public Safety Officer, and often CIC as well.

4. The system outlined above has now been in operation for approximately four months. According to the U.S. Public Safety Officer, it has worked to eliminate some of the unhealthy political influence from the police in the U.S. Sector, but on the other hand, caused considerable administrative difficulties and has lessened the efficiency of the police as a whole, mainly because of the animosity among Praesidium officials and the newly-appointed Sector Chiefs. No change is planned, however, because of political considerations.

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