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Meeting in Halls

1. Dr. Leo Herwegen, Chairman of the CDU in Saxony-Anhalt, called a meeting for 19 April 1947 in Halle of the CDU state chairman from the Russian Zone. It is understood that he wished to discuss the possible formation of a separate zonal party organization without Berlin, and without Jacob Kaiser as chairman. At any rate, the meeting was called without any notification to the party headquarters in Berlin as such; although Georg Dertinger, then the Executive Secretary, did attend.
2. The only persons who went to Halle for the meeting, besides Dertinger, were Dr. Reinhold Lobedanz from Mecklenburg and Prof. Hugo Hickmann from Saxony. Hickmann, however, arrived on the day before, and after learning what the circumstances were, departed for Berlin, where he informed party leaders of Herwegen's action.
3. The SMA at Karlshorst seems to have had full advance knowledge of the meeting, but did not notify the party's Berlin office. As a result CDU circles in Berlin surmise that the initiative came from SMA rather than from Herwegen himself.

Activities at Berlin Headquarters

4. On 22 May Jacob Kaiser held a meeting in Berlin of the chairman of the CDU in the eastern zone, the purpose of which was to counteract the unsanctioned meeting at Halle. Herwegen attended; however, Dertinger was not permitted to attend. At this meeting, which was essentially an informal talk between Kaiser and his leaders in the Zone, Kaiser was given the full confidence of the leaders and Herwegen apologized for the episode in Halle.
5. On 23 May Kaiser called a meeting of the headquarters staff of the CDU and informed them of the new Executive Committee set-up which was to be effective immediately. Under this new arrangement the following named individuals are the Executive Chairmen of the indicated branches:

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Kaiser and Lemmer remain as party leaders.
 Dr. Johann Gradl, Economics and Finance.
 Dr. (Heinrich?) Krone, Culture and Youth.
 Dr. Robert Tillmanns, General Politics.
 Georg Dertinger, Party Administration.
 Dr. Elfriede Nebgen, Women's Committees.

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6. The principal reason underlying this headquarters change is alleged to be that Kaiser is attempting to forestall efforts on the part of the Russians to split the CDU in the eastern zone from the CDU in Berlin and the western zones. They are trying to do this through two persons, namely, Herwegen and Dertinger. [redacted] Herwegen is fully behind Kaiser, but is a man who gives in freely to the Russians and lacks the courage even to temporize with them. On the other hand, Dertinger is believed to be the man within the CDU Executive Committee who has been used by the Russians constantly and methodically to cause dissension and a party split. Kaiser has spoken to Tulpanov about removing Dertinger, but Tulpanov expressed dissatisfaction, and for that reason, instead of being entirely removed from the executive set-up, Dertinger has taken over the administrative details.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: Dertinger was a journalist, and under the Nazis wrote constantly for the party papers, although not a [redacted] man with much initiative, but would never be allowed to work at his profession in the western zones. [redacted] the Russians know this and are probably holding this knowledge of his past activities over his head. Dertinger first came to the CDU during the Hermes administration. Hermes accepted him soon after the party was organized, without knowing too much about his background. When Kaiser took over leadership of the CDU, Dertinger stayed on and it has not been until the past several weeks that Kaiser has become suspicious of Dertinger's activities and apparent associations with the Russians.

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