

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2005

10 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: UTILITY's Comments re Possible American Inter-  
cession regarding his Successor

1. Heinz Herre saw me this date in the absence of C/EUR to convey the response he had received from UTILITY to the question posed by C/EUR to Herre during their lunch on 8 August whether COS/Germany might usefully indicate to the German government and political contacts that the Agency favored a professional (i.e., a person with previous intelligence experience) rather than a political appointee as UTILITY's successor. [ ] was himself struck by the speed with which UTILITY replied and had with him the original cable from which he read large portions.

2. UTILITY stated: he would welcome our saying something if appropriate opportunity presents itself. He suggests that the impending visit of Chancellor Kiesinger might present such an opportunity (although of course this is only one possible, not the exclusive, opportunity). His reason for endorsing the suggested action by us is to take all possible steps to ensure continuation of the existing good relations between the BND and the NATO services, in particular the U.S. service. He requests, however, that no names be mentioned but rather that our statement be limited to expressing our strong preference for a "professional" rather than a "non-professional". He requests that specific emphasis be placed on the importance of appointing as his successor a person who has had long experience in the foreign intelligence field (i.e., his successor should not come from the BfV). He further suggested that an opening wedge for initiating such a discussion might well be the recent Spiegel article speculating on the possibility that General Wessel would be appointed his successor.

3. Heinz insisted that I read back to him the notes I had taken and specifically endorsed the above paragraph as embodying the exact terms of the Doctor's message. He claimed to be impressed by the level UTILITY was suggesting for our intercession, and speculated, stressing that it was his personal opinion, that this implicitly authorized and requested us to have COS/Germany take action if and as we saw fit.

SECRET

-2-

To my direct query whether he had any persons particularly in mind whom we might approach, he stated that he personally felt principal weight should be given to top levels of the SPD, but that he felt COS/Germany would be a better judge of the appropriate people to approach in Bonn.

DC/EUR

SECRET