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ROUTINE

5 OCT 60

[] INFO DIR FRAN FROB BGRN CITE HAMB 1610

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REF A []

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1. SPIEGEL QUOTED ECHO BECAUSE MADE GOOD COPY, NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE BEHIND SPIEGEL PLAY. SPIEGEL WAS FIRST OFFERED STORY BY MERTEN LAWYER DR. KURT POSSER ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. SPIEGEL EDITORS DISCUSSED WITH BONN AUTHORITIES, DECIDED NOT RUN STORY FOR FEAR DAMAGING MERTENS CASE. WHEN STORY APPEARED HAMBURGER ECHO, SPIEGEL EDITORS DECIDED WOULD MAKE GOOD COPY FOR SPIEGEL. SPIEGEL NOW BELIEVES SOME STATEMENTS IN STORY INACCURATE. ABOVE O.K. FOR PASSING []

2. ABOVE FROM [] INSIDE SPIEGEL SOURCE KNOWN TO [] WE ACCEPT SOURCE VERSION AS ACCURATE. FYI, SOURCE SAID SPIEGEL GAVE GREEK CONSULATE HAMBURG ADVANCE COPY FOR COMMENT, PRINTED STORY AFTER VAINLY WAITING 13 DAYS FOR COMMENT.

3. WE WILL SEE ECHO CHIEF EDITOR TO ELICIT BACKGROUND ECHO SURFACING OF STORY. HE IS OUT OF TOWN ON SHORT TRIP BUT EXPECTED BACK 5 OCT.

4. FOR BONN: WE NOTE MERTEN DEFENSE LAWYERS WERE GUSTAV HEINEMANN, NEUTRALIST SPD BUNDESTAG MEMBER AND HIS PARTNER
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PAGE TWO HAMB 1610

DR. KURT POSSER. SUGGEST YOU QUERY CAVATA FOR DETAILS POSSERS
WELL KNOWN CONTACTS TO GERMAN NEUTRALIST, ANTI-ATOMIC AND COMMUNIST
FRONT GROUPS.

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