

19 December 1974

TO: Chief/European Division - FYI

Hermann Abs has been described by David Rockefeller as "the leading banker in the world." While he holds no governmental positions his influence is enormous and dates back to his successful leadership in 1952 of the German Delegation which regulated the post-war German reparation question and set the basis for the FRG to regain its sovereignty in 1955. He was awarded the Federal Service Cross First Class for this achievement and repeatedly declined Cabinet posts offered by Adenauer and succeeding Chancellors. He was born in 1901 and speaks English, French, Dutch and Spanish fluently. He remains Chairman of the Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt and is on the Board of Directors of 14 major German firms, a reduction from the 30 such positions he formerly maintained. As a rough comparison he might be ~~compared to~~ added the Bernard Beruch of Germany.

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