

**INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT**  
**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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**S E C R E T**  
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COUNTRY	West Germany	REPORT NO.	CS -311/11730-87
SUBJECT	Chancellor Kiesinger's Nominations for President and Vice-President of the German Intelligence Service	DATE DISTR.	15 November 1967
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: Qualified American official from Horst Wendland (Paragraphs 1 and 2) and General Reinhard Gehlen (Paragraphs 2 and 3).

1. According to Chief of Staff and Acting Vice-President of the West German Intelligence Service (BND) Horst Wendland, General Gerhard Wessel and General Reinhard Gehlen have been notified by Chancellor Kiesinger that General Wessel will be nominated for the position of President of the BND. In addition, Wendland was told by the Chancellor that he (Wendland) would be the Chancellor's nominee for the Vice-Presidency of the BND. The Chancellor indicated that the next step would be to obtain the concurrence of Vice-Chancellor Willy Brandt. If Brandt and the Socialist Party (SPD) do not concur in Kiesinger's choice, the Chancellor told all three BND officials concerned that he will defer naming a successor and will ask Gehlen to stay on for another year.
2. Wendland noted that the Chancellor specifically promised that the matter of BND succession would not be a subject for political horse trading. This same promise was made by the Chancellor to General Gehlen during an earlier discussion about BND succession. However, General Gehlen expressed his feeling that the SPD view that one of the two top BND officers should be an outside civilian may result in some form of 'horse trading' within the coalition. Gehlen noted that if such action occurs and results in an unqualified successor being named, he would "be forced to enter the political field" himself. In doing so, his stated purpose would be to champion the cause of retaining a "non-political German national intelligence service staffed by officers selected on the basis of their experience and qualifications rather than their political affiliations".

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3. Gehlen expects that a successor will not be named before December of this year or possibly in January 1968 and that the Chancellor will find it necessary to extend General Gehlen's tenure to provide for a year's overlap with his successor in order that the new President would have sufficient time to become familiar with the position.

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