

WHY DID GEHLEN BREAK HIS SILENCE?

HITLER'S AND ADENAUER'S SUPER-SPY WITHOUT A MASK ○ WHO REMOVED WALTER SCHELLENBERG? ○ NOW GEHLEN'S MEMOIRS WERE PUBLISHED ○ THE "GREY GENERAL" VS. THE POLICY OF

REALISM

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escape retribution.

But Lieutenant General Gehlen, former chief of the "Foreign Armies East" department of the Nazi Army General Staff, kept his wits about him. In April 1945, when Nazi Germany was on the verge of collapse under the hammer blows of the Soviet forces, he withdrew to an almost inaccessible mountain retreat in the Alps. The man who

had headed an espionage service which

operated against the Soviet Union and Germany's eastern neighbours survived the death agony of the fascist Reich in peaceful seclusion, taking walks in idyllic Alpine meadows and pondering future moves.

Let it not be thought that Gehlen was tormented by doubt. No, everything had been decided long ago. As soon as American troops appeared in the vicinity, the Alpine hermit hastened to give himself up. He neither removed his uniform nor pasted on a false moustache, he did not change his name or conceal his rank and office. He went quietly to the Americans and was received with open arms.

Early in August 1945, when the Potsdam agreement was being signed at Cecilienhof, ex-Nazi General Gehlen sat at a conference table in the Pentagon. He was not there in the capacity of a person under investigation, being interrogated by the American generals, but rather as an equal partner in negotiations with high-ranking U.S. intelligence officials. The statements of the Nazi super-spy were attentively followed by Major General William Donovan, chief of the intelligence outfit disguised under the name of Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Allen Dulles, his right-hand man and head of the European branch of OSS, Brigadier General John Magruder, commander of the special task forces, and General George Strong, chief of the G-2 tactical intelligence.

The interest displayed by the heads of the U.S. secret service in the former chief of the "Foreign Armies East" department was quite understandable: towards the end of the war Gehlen held in his hands some of the important threads of the Nazi espionage network. Sefton Delmer, a former British secret agent who after the war became a prominent journalist, wrote in the *Daily Express* that in 1945, when the Hitler army was defeated, General

Since the second world war, there is, perhaps, no other figure in the realm of imperialist espionage that has attracted so much attention on the part of newspapermen and researchers as Reinhard Gehlen, former president of the West German Federal Intelligence Service (Bundesnachrichtendienst--BND). True, in contrast to his mentor and patron Allen Dulles, the founder and many years' chief of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Gehlen was not a publicity hound. Quite the reverse. For many years he preferred to keep in the shade, and to the end of his career made no public statements. It was because of his avoidance of news-men, his shunning of the limelight and his predilection for donning the cloak of mystery and acting behind the scenes that Gehlen came to be known as the "grey general."

The "grey general" did not permit his staff either to make statements in the press. His instructions on this score were explicit: everything pertaining to the activity of the "Gehlen organization," set up by the Americans after the war and converted into the BND in 1956, must be kept top secret. The ban extended, as the Hamburg magazine *Der Spiegel* wrote recently, even to the history of the "Foreign Armies East," a department of Hitler's General Staff and an important intelligence agency of Nazi Germany which for three years had been headed by Gehlen and whose personnel made up the core of the espionage organization he led in the postwar period. "Every former officer of this department," *Der Spiegel* emphasized, "was instructed not to divulge what he knew about it. Public knowledge of its activity, Gehlen argues, would enable the enemy to draw definite conclusions also about the methods of activity of the Federal Intelligence Service. . . . The chief himself abides by this rule."

Gehlen kept silent even after he retired in 1968. He was silent until recently, when the West German *Die Welt* began to print excerpts from his memoirs which are being put out by the Hase und Koehler publishers. It is not surprising that the publication of Gehlen's reminiscences is being played up in the West; and not only because this opus carries the signature of the "grey general," but chiefly because the memoirs are heavily spiced with anti-Soviet fabrications.

Moreover, bourgeois newspapers and magazines which still keep to the cold war trenches, are going out of their way to picture Gehlen as a veritable knight *sans peur et sans reproche* who for a long time was in charge of one of the most important sectors of the "Western wall" against "communist expansion." And they are doing it with the same zeal as when some 15 or 20 years ago they tried to present Gehlen as an enemy of Hitler and active member of the Resistance.

Who is Reinhard Gehlen after all? Why have his "memoirs" been made public? What are the aims of those behind the wide publicity they are being given in the West?

Let us go back to August 1945. The Potsdam conference of the heads of the three great powers--the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain--had just ended. The Big Three had agreed that the postwar structure of Germany must be founded on the following principles: denazification and demilitarization, the final disbandment of all military, paramilitary and Nazi organizations and institutions, complete disarmament and dissolution of all German armed forces, punishment of the war criminals, abolition of the German monopolies, and the democratic reconstruction of public life. Nazis, big and small, were scurrying all over Germany and Europe, changing their

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