

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The Alliance of German Consumers' Cooperatives (Verband der deutschen Konsumgenossenschaften -- VDK) of the Soviet zone of Germany, with headquarters in Berlin-Mitte, Stresemannstrasse 128 (near the Potsdamer Platz), headed by Dr. Grete Wittkowsky, has an "All-German" Section whose chief is (fnu) Thorwirt. This man came from Rostock in April 1952 as the successor to Hans Hummel. There is supposed also to be an "All-German" section in each of the Bezirk branches of the VDK.
2. The All-German Section's functions are exclusively of a political nature. It attempts to spread the pro-Eastern "peace propaganda" among the members of West German cooperatives, and to prepare such persons for eventual acceptance of Socialism as practised in East Germany. The bulk of the members of consumers' cooperatives in West Germany are affiliated with the SPD. The "All-German" Section of the VDK works in close association with the SED and with KPD headquarters in Düsseldorf. Communist functionaries, trained in East Germany, were sent to West Germany as "instructors" for consumers' groups.
3. Delegations of members of cooperatives in West Germany were organized for visits to East Germany. The visitors were escorted everywhere by carefully chosen SED functionaries. Other members have been sent to training courses at a school run by the VDK in Thuringia. In these cases transportation was arranged by the Central Committee of the SED, and surveillance was maintained by the SSD.
4. The "All-German" Section of the VDK has organized vacation visits in East Germany for children of West German members of cooperatives; and has given the children gifts of clothing upon their return to their homes. All expenses were borne by the VDK.
5. The VDK maintains liaison with various other organizations for the purpose of recruiting possible espionage agents, and sometimes provides "cover" for agents of the SFS.

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