

CLASSIFICATION **S-E-C-R-E-T**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 8 August 1955

SUBJECT "Sponsorship" of West German Enterprises

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. According to a decree of the FDGB National Executive Board, it is desirable that as many as possible candidates for the Shop Trade Union Managements have close connections in West Germany; either through relatives or through their work in the trade-union movement. It was stated that such connections would promote the solution of all-German problems, which had assumed the highest importance. 25X1
2. The FDGB National Executive Board therefore ordered that each national enterprise and each "Vereinigung organisationseigener Betriebe" (Association of Organization-Owned Enterprises) (VOB) and each government agency in the GDR adopt a West German or West Berlin enterprise as so-called "sponsorship enterprise". The workers of the enterprises sponsored were to be induced to promote the reunification of Germany. Financial and moral support was to be given to them if they had lost their jobs through their fight against the Paris Agreements.
3. It was stated that 7 percent of all membership dues received by the FDGB were earmarked for financial support of West German and West Berlin industrial enterprises within the sponsorship program. Moreover, it was arranged that in May 1955, all FDGB members would have to pay a sum ranging from 0.50 to 2 DME. The money collected in this way was to go into a fund for the support of West German workers victimized for political reasons. FDGB members fiercely criticized these measures taken by the FDGB leadership. In particular, East Berlin workers are of the opinion that the money collected should be spent on needy workers and employees in the GDR.

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