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CORPORATION

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DATE:

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SUBJECT

COUNTRY

Russian Consorship of German Newspapers

INFO. DIST.

13 February 1947

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Germany/Russian Zons

PAGES

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

The SMA has issued the following directions to Russian-licensed papers:

"In view of the successful evolution of the periodical press in the Soviet Zone of Germany, and filled with the desire to grant it greater independence and initiative in the formulation and interpretation of current political problems, especially in its battle for the further democratization of Germany and the final eradication of fascism and Nazi ideology, the SMA is abolishing pre-censorship as of 25 November 1946 and establishing a post-publication control over the German periodical press in the Soviet Zone and the Soviet Sector of Berlin.

"The SIM demands that the German periodical press use the freedom granted it in observation of the necessity of maintaining military security and protecting the interests of the Allies and that it decisively oppose Nazi and militaristic propaganda.

"Accordingly we cannot allow the licensee to publish the following:

- (1) Any news reports or articles which might foment disturbances, opposition to the Allies, or a threat to the Allies or to the military security in general.
- (2) Nazl, fascistic, pan-Germanic, militaristic or imperialistic ideas, or ideas that foment racial or religious hatred.
- (3) Any news reports or articles containing attacks on decrees of the military administration or its representatives, or calculated to injure the unity of the Allies or create hostility among the German people toward the Allies.

The licenses are bound to choose their employees and collaborators from those who are capable of assisting in the establishment of a healthy, democratic social order in Germany. In no event may persons be allowed to work who were ever active followers of National Socialism, convinced representatives of racial or militaristic ideas, functionaries of the NSDAP or other organizations convicted by the Inter-

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PLANS

CONTROL

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national Tribunal at Murewberg.

"All material reprinted from a news agency or other publication must carry an indication of the source; original reports and articles must be signed or initialled.

"The licensee is fully responsible for all material published, regardless of source. Violation of these directions is punishable with:

- Reprimand of licenses or responsible editor.
- Fine of licensee, responsible editor or staff.
- Confiscation of whole edition or part thereof. (3)
- (4)Reduction of size or circulation.
- (5) Suspension.
- Introduction of pre-censorship.
- Withdrawal of license.
- (6) (7) (8) Court action.

22 November 1946

Chief of Propaganda Division SHE W. Sdarov

- 2. On 26 November there was a meeting of editors-in-chief and Soviet censorship officers in the Move (a club in the Bussian Sector of Berlin). The editors were given the above directions and signed a statement that they would follow them. They were told to print the truth and avoid all sources which spread lies about the USSR. The only news services they are to use are ADN. Tass, and SNB. They are not to print any tendentious articles about the Russian Zone nor anything at all about Russian troop undertakings or the production agencies necessary to supply the occupational troops.
- 3. Reactions of Berlin papers to the new procedure vary. The Berliner Zeitung and Neues Deutschland are pleased. The Neue Zeit reports that its censor, a young captain, now works much more carefully and sometimes takes three or four hours which delays publication.
- The non-SED papers still submit galley proofs to their Russian censorship officers before publication in order to be on the safe side. Source reports that in general the censors no longer delete as much as formerly, in Berlin at least. (The situation in the provinces is not so clear.) Analysis of deletions in <u>Per Morgen</u> in the period 26 November-12 December bears out this conclusion. On 27 November the censorship officers visited the compositor's rooms and looked through the pages without making any objections