

~~INFORMAL REPORT~~

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Activities of Freies Deutschland Personnel

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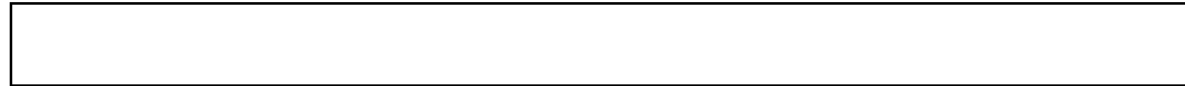
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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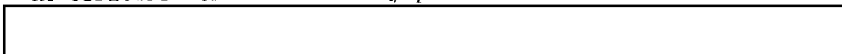


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- 1. Quarters for 700 German officers of the former National Komite Freies Deutschland were arranged in the Army Sport School at Berlin/Wunsdorf through the local MVD chief early in March 1948. The officers were to arrive by plane about the middle of March.



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- 2. A conference of SED functionaries held at Stralsund in early March, officially called by SMA, included about 250 persons, of whom two-thirds were former members of the NKFD or the League of German Officers. They had all arrived in Germany in December 1947 or January 1948; twelve were reported to be members of the CDU and four of the LDP. Information on conference activities was unobtainable since all sessions were secret, but it was rumored to concern the work of NKFD members and to include instructions from a high political official of the SMA at Schwerin.

- 3. Among war prisoners returned from the USSR to the Russian Zone since the end of 1947, an increasing proportion consists of officers and soldiers trained by the NKFD. Some of these

are in administrative

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positions, but the larger part form a "leadership reserve" prepared for action. They exercise an important psychological influence in the Russian Zone through their conspicuous self-assurance and their clever adoption of Nazi bourgeois lines of reasoning. They are apparently the tools of an effort eventually to channel the political thinking of the non-SED masses along Russian lines through appeals to nationalist sentiments.

- 4. During April, five new department heads were appointed in the labor office of the city of Leipzig; all are former members of Freies Deutschland. Rolf Helm, who was appointed General Prosecutor for Land Saxony in December 1947, is also a former NKFD and BdO member. After becoming a prisoner of war during the Taganrog retreat in 1942, he remained in Russia until the summer of 1947 and then returned to Germany to work in the Central Administration for Justice.

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5. [redacted] Dr. Semmler, former private secretary of Dr. Goebbels, appeared at the Central Secretariat of SED in Potsdam on 3 January 1948 and conferred with organizational leader Kreuziger. Goebbels sent Semmler to the front in 1943 for officer training; in the fall of 1944 he was captured by the Russians and joined the NKFD, for which he wrote many appeals and manifestos. He declared that he had returned to Jüterbog from Moscow by air on 2 January 1948 with a number of other prominent members of Freies Deutschland.

6. [redacted] in Leipzig, that city was selected as the foundation point for a new nationalist party and possibly as the seat of its permanent directorate. Office space for the local Leipzig group was rented in the Turmhaus on the former Augustus Platz in late April.

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