Approved For Release 2006/02/01 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001800180001-6

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT SED Purge in Thuringia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 18 August 1948

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO Mid-July 1948

25X1

CIA Library

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [redacted]

[redacted] 25X1

1. At the end of May 1948, the leadership of SED in Thuringia commenced a purge within the party ranks directed against "anti-Soviet elements." SED members affected were mainly former adherents of SPD.

2. In the Nordhausen district, forty-two former SPD members were excluded from the SED between the beginning of the purge and mid-July 1948, and thirty-one were removed in the Sonderhausen district. These were all reproached with anti-Soviet attitudes and being "Schumacher men."

3. "Purging" included not only banning of the persons from the party but in some cases also their arrest by the MVD. For example, Berthold Otto, a member of the SED from Niegersdorf, was arrested by the MVD at the end of May 1948. His family was informed about 7 July 1948 that Otto had been excluded from the SED as a "Schumacher man" and would be sentenced by a Russian military tribunal.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: A previous report [redacted] indicated that some such purge of "unreliable" elements from the SED was to be expected at some indeterminate date. This is the first indication of such action received since the removals of SED personnel occasioned by the formation of the DUK.) 25X1

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 18 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 001
NO CHANGE in Class.
☒ DECLASSIFIED
Class. Changed To: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA Reg. 77/1763
Date: 05 Oct 78

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

STATE #	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY #	X	AIR	X										

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE EXCISED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL ~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2006/02/01 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001800180001-6