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Approved For Release 2000/09/01 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00240

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Germany (Berlin)

DATE DISTR. 7 Mar 1949

SUBJECT SED Preparations for Illegal Work
in Western Berlin

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted] 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1A2g

DATE OF INFO. [redacted] 25X1X65 25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [redacted]

1. The view is now held by higher SED officials and informed functionaries on the SED Kreis level that the nature of party work in Berlin will be basically changed soon. These functionaries point to the recent division of the SED and KPD as an example of how the situation in Berlin will develop. They expect a clear distinction between the normal SED party work in the Soviet Sector of Berlin and the work to be done in the western sectors. This distinction will be forced by an outlawing of the party in the western sectors. All necessary initial preparations for illegal work in the western sectors have been made, particularly in the selection of personnel. The Landesvorstand of the SED will be able immediately to delegate assignments to party members who are known to be reliable, and has already selected safe houses and clandestine meeting and storage places. The Landesvorstand's attitude on the western sectors is demonstrated by its unwillingness to allocate money or supplies to them. One functionary said on this point: "When a business man sees his business going broke, he naturally doesn't throw more money into it."
2. The considered opinion among informed functionaries is that on going underground the SED membership in the western sectors will fall at once to five or ten per cent of its present strength. The loss in numbers will be compensated for, however, by more intensive and efficient work than is possible with the present cumbersome party organization.
3. The first measures of the illegal party work will be:
 - a. Intensive propaganda on a nationalistic line, stressing unity, freedom, reconstruction, and the two-year plan, and the "colonial politics" of the Western Powers.

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Document No. 003
 NO CHANGE in Class.
~~DECLASSIFIED~~
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1783
 Date: 4 MAY 1978 By: oib

Approved For Release 2000/09/01 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00240005-6

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- b. Intensification of party work in western sector industries, particularly in those factories which have had to curtail production and in the Siemens plants.
- c. Penetration of the bourgeois parties, especially the SPD, and mass organizations (UGO, VVN, Sozialhilfe) in the western sectors
- d. Rebuilding the Rotfrontkämpferbund outside the party and the organization and training of small "goon squads". At present only the organization of these groups has been decided on; specific assignments and work for them will be determined later.
- e. All supplies, equipment, files, and other party property which can be spared are being moved to storage points in the Soviet Sector.

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