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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 7 APR 1949

SUBJECT "Einheitsfront" of Anti-Fascist Democratic Bloc Parties

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1. On 22 February 1949, the "Einheitsfront" of the anti-fascist democratic bloc parties of the Soviet Zone convened in the headquarters of the German Economic Commission.

2. The main topic under discussion was the complaint of the LDP that it is continually running into difficulties and discriminations within the Soviet Zone of Germany. Prof. Hermann Kastner and Dr. Karl Hamann begged the SED not to create difficulties for their election at the party convention, but to make it possible for their party to achieve some measure of success. Grotewohl showed little understanding. He reproached the party for its reactionary attitude and accused both Kastner and Hamann of a lack of political sagacity. He pointed out that the CDU, on the other hand, had directed its affairs during the last few months in such a way that the SED had found no reason to disapprove decisions taken by party leaders.

3. The SED promised to give favorable attention to complaints voiced by the CDU. Grotewohl even went so far as to apologize to the CDU for the failure of some SED agencies to carry out directives given by the SED executive office in the interest of loyal cooperation among the bloc parties.

4. One of the main tasks of the committee in charge of formulating anew the policy of the bloc parties is to work out a complaint procedure and to appoint grievance committees in the various states and in Berlin, which, however, will be known under some other designation. They are, nevertheless, an indication of how anxious the SED is to present to the outside a picture of close cooperation and understanding between the parties.

VOID

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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