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4 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Correspondence from Mr. Gerhard Mertins

1. On receipt of Mertins' first letter, I coordinated this fully with NE, who were already familiar with the case in view of the approaches [redacted]. We concluded it was unnecessary and probably unwise to reply. At the same time, the FI Staff sent a copy of the correspondence to the appropriate Army component in the Department of Defense, recommending that they in turn advise the Department of State. At the time, I did not think it was necessary to report all this to you. (b)(3)

2. NE and I have reviewed the situation as a result of Mertins' second letter. Basically, we would prefer not to reply, feeling that Mertins will eventually become discouraged and give up. A second possibility would be for a brief note to go out to Mertins from your staff--perhaps signed by [redacted]--merely saying that Mertins' correspondence had been brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities in Washington and that "the Director" did not plan to take any further action. The letter would be written in such a manner as to avoid your name. (b)(3)

3. Please advise your preference.

(Signed) Bronson Tweedy

Bronson Tweedy  
D/DCI/IC

IC:BT:dm

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