

INFORMATION REPORT

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

COUNTRY West Germany/Italy

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Would-Be Successors to Adenauer

DATE OF REPORT 26 November 1957

NO. OF PAGES [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1.

[REDACTED] mentioned in early November 1957 that Karl Arnold of North Rhine-Westphalia had recently paid a three-week visit to the Vatican and had made a very fine impression. As a result, the Vatican viewed Arnold as the one of the possible successors to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer that it particularly favored. When [REDACTED] remonstrated that Arnold had neither the popular nor the political support necessary for such a position, [REDACTED] Arnold had convinced the Vatican that he did have the necessary support and that the Vatican was completely behind him. [REDACTED] this is a clear indication that Arnold is actively trying to gather political support for his ambition to become chancellor.

2.

[REDACTED] believes that the new Finance Minister Franz Etzel will regret his acceptance of the position because it is one from which he will never make any friends. Before the September 1957 election, however, Etzel told [REDACTED] that he was primarily interested in becoming chancellor and considered himself the leading candidate for the succession. Etzel felt that he must have the public prominence of a cabinet position from which to work towards his ambition.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

DISTRIBUTION

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE OCT 2000