

26 March 1954

West German Intelligence
Organization (Bureau Gahlen)

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Gehlen, Reinhard

On 17 February 1954, the following information was obtained from Informant 6030, who obtained this information from a Sub-source of unknown reliability:

The renowned German Secret Service (Geheimdienst) chief, former German Army General (fm) Gehlen is again becoming active. Although, until recently, the existence of a German Secret Service led by Gehlen, has been officially denied by the West German government in Bonn, it has now officially appeared. Appearing before deputies of the West German Federal Diet (Bundestag) members of the West German Committee for the European Defense Community (KDC), Gehlen reported on the proposed tasks of his organization. This organization aims to report military occurrences with the East Zone of Germany, and is practically a German "intelligence." Gehlen mentioned no word of a "political intelligence." Members of the West German KDC Committee were favorably impressed by the statements made by Gehlen, former department head of the "Pressia Heere Ost" (Section for Foreign East Armies) within the former Supreme Command of the German Army (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht).

It is generally known that the Bureau Gahlen was established by the Americans in order for them to obtain from German agents operating within the Soviet Zone of Germany, information pertaining to the Soviet military operations. For this project, the establishment of an enormous network of agents was necessary. It is believed that the Bureau Gahlen has cost the United States approximately 30 to 40 million German Marks (Deutsche Marks) (Current exchange rate: 4.20 German Marks = \$1.00) annually. Should the German Peace Treaty materialize, the maintenance of such an intelligence apparatus, financed and conducted by the Americans on German soil, would be illegal in the face of German sovereignty. Presently, Gehlen is seeking a financial supporter who would replace the Americans. Further, he is attempting to convince high West German officials and Federal Diet members in Bonn of the necessity of incorporating his "service" into the West German government. Gehlen is also attempting to gain contacts in Upper Austria, and, to date, has limited his activities in Upper Austria to domestic political matters. It is believed that with sufficient financial backing, Gehlen would enlarge his activities in Austria.

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ABSTRACT INDEX

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