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TO : Chief, WE
FROM : Senior Representative, C KUFIRE Frankfurt
SUBJECT : GENERAL: Otto John
SPECIFIC: Article in Dutch Weekly

DATE: SEP 7 1954

INFO:

JPG

1. In view of the priority interest evinced in the case of Dr. Otto JOHN and in the belief that the article which appeared in the 28 August edition of the Dutch weekly "Elseviers Weekblad" may have slipped by unnoticed, it is forwarded herewith for your information. In an effort to save time, the writer will dictate a rough translation of those parts which appear to be of greater interest in an effort to summarize the meat of the article.
2. The first column can be considered unimportant build-up, but the following section may be of interest:

"However, except for the so-called official counterespionage services, there are still several other organizations about which the public seldom hears anything. A short time ago when Dr. Otto JOHN fled to the East, the world became aware with astonishment that the German Federal Republic is blessed with three intelligence services. First there is the official Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution: This Bureau is responsible for the protection of the Federal Republic against left- and right-wing elements. It has a net of agents in the East. Next to it there was - and is - the counterespionage service of the so-called "Bureau Blank", the future German Ministry of War and Defense. The Bureau Blank, which is directly responsible to Adenauer, is established in a former barracks in Bonn (huge brickkiln barracks) and has a staff of almost 1,000 former servicemen and officials. The OE service of the Bureau Blank was, until a year ago, under the direction of an adventurous old-timer in the espionage world, J. W. HEINZ. The Bureau Blank also has three offices in West Berlin and two in East Berlin where primarily military information from the East is collected."

Attachment (WE only)
28 August Edition of "Elseviers Weekblad"

3 September 1954
ATT. NSM

- Distribution
- 3 - WE. w/att.
 - 2 - []
 - 2 - Frankfurt
 - 1 - OFFA
 - 1 - JOHN file

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Large Organization

"It was only through the JOHN Affair that the existence of the third, and by far largest West German espionage organization, came to light. In well-informed circles in Bonn one had long been convinced that the importance and danger of this service was real. The chief of this service is the former Brigadier (General) GEHLEN. In the GEHLEN organization there are presently more than 4,000 persons working, 3,000 in the political section and 1,000 in the military section.

Reinhard GEHLEN was one of the young, brilliant officers who had a swift career in Hitler's army. He originally came from the artillery but, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, he was assigned to the counterspionage section of the German high command. At the time of the capitulation GEHLEN was chief of the "Gruppe Fremde-Heere-Ost" and directed the espionage and counterspionage services of the German Army in Russia. He succeeded in escaping from the Russians with his valuable agent files and arrived in the West where he - largely because of his files - was received by the Americans with open arms. As early as 1947 he received instructions from the Americans to build up a new net of agents and American Headquarters in Frankfurt financed the so-called GEHLEN group, a continually expanding net of agents in and around Berlin, after the Russian blockade of Berlin. Since 1948 each year the Americans have placed at the disposal of GEHLEN 25 million marks for the expansion of his organization. GEHLEN Headquarters are in the village of Pullach, fourteen kilometers south of Munich. A barbed wire fence three meters high and electrified surrounds a huge area containing barracks, fuel, houses, stores and even a school.

Excellent Impression

"Reinhard GEHLEN is now in his middle 50's, slender, not too short, with thin blond hair and a small mustache. Even in civilian clothing his military bearing betrays him. Bonn journalists saw him for the first time when he was questioned in a secret sitting of the Bundestag dealing with the questions concerning EDO. He made an excellent impression on members of the Bundestag. For more than a year influential persons in Bonn behind the scenes have been working to make the GEHLEN organization an official service of the West German Federal Republic. The Americans would rather be rid of GEHLEN not only because his organization has gradually become too large and too expensive, but also because they suspect that he does not share his loyalty with certain persons in the immediate circle next to the German Chancellor. Apparently this refers to (Dr.) Hans GLOBKE

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who, in the old days, was a loyal servant and Socialist and who was allegedly the founder of the national socialist race laws. Thus, it was Dr. GLOBKE who proposed to the Federal Chancellor that the GEHLEN organization be incorporated as the official counterespionage service of the Bureau Blank.

"After General GEHLEN, as mentioned above, had explained his program to the Bundestag on 16 December 1953 and had made his "excellent impression", an agreement was reached in March of this year between the Bonn government and GEHLEN to the effect that the GEHLEN organization would be taken over by the West German Federal Republic. The Federal Republic would provide 22 million marks for it per year.

"But Theodore BLANK, who initiated the plan for German divisions in the European Army, stubbornly refused to receive the GEHLEN organization. Too many GEHLEN agents were supposed to be former members of the infamous Gestapo and SD.

Adenauer's Decision

"The GEHLEN organization has not yet been accepted by the West German Federal Republic. But GEHLEN has time and he has friends with a great deal of power. About a week before the flight of JOHN to the East, General GEHLEN handed over to his friend GLOBKE a thick dossier with the title, "Otto JOHN." This dossier ended up on Adenauer's desk. After reading it, the Chancellor said "I don't want to see that man again." This decision, which was heard by a large number of persons, reached JOHN too and that may well have been one of the reasons which forced JOHN to flee to the East and which has induced the English journalist, Sefton DELMER, to write a series of articles under the title "Is Hitler Really Dead."

"In the mean while the agents of the GEHLEN organization, of the Bureau Blank, and of the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution are continuing their work in their buildings in East and West Berlin and so are the agents of the fourteen other secret services established in Berlin. At least two, perhaps even three of these services, are working for the East German satellites. They too have their offices in West Berlin. The West Berlin police have a section set up to handle special orders. This section, which is not established in the building of the West Berlin police headquarters but in a store on one of the busiest streets of West Berlin, has more than 100 specially trained and carefully selected officials working for it. The most important

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qualification for the members of this section is an absolute political integrity. We have received a great deal of the material that we have used in writing this article from one of the commanding officers of this section."

3. The remaining two columns are not believed to be particularly germane to the subject and are primarily journalistic. It is believed [] may, if Headquarters considers the matter interesting enough, wish to make contact with the journalist who wrote the article, Hains/LIEPMAN. At any rate, the article itself and the sections translated above are forwarded for Headquarters' interest with information copies to The [] and Frankfurt.

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7 Sept. '54
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