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DATE 2001 2005

E. G. L. A. - 16392/01

MUNICH REPRESENTATIVE  
OF  
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES, GERMANY

In reply  
refer to

VLR: on  
Ser: 00017-55  
12 October 1955

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From: Munich Representative of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Germany  
To: Director of Naval Intelligence

Subj: Visit of General GEHLEN, head of the German Intelligence Service, to the  
U.S. Sixth Fleet

- Encls (1) Copy of Memorandum received by GEHLEN aboard USS SALEM (CA 139)
- (2) Copy of Plan of the Day of USS SALEM (CA 139) of Wednesday, 7 September 1955
- (3) Itinerary of GEHLEN's visit to Sixth Fleet

1. From 5 September to 10 September 1955 General GEHLEN, Chief of the CIA sponsored German Intelligence Service (GIS), and the Chief of the GIS Naval Evaluation Section, Albrecht OBERMAYER, were guests of the U.S. Navy aboard ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. During the entire visit GEHLEN used the pseudonym "Dr. GEHLER", but his aid used his own name, OBERMAYER. The identities of the German visitors were known only to higher officers of the Sixth Fleet and a few members of their Staffs. Within COMNAVGER, the entire visit was closely controlled and known only to Admiral RODGERS, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Germany; Capt. R. G. ARMSTRONG, Chief of Staff, COMNAVGER; Cdr. H. W. HARRISON Jr., Intelligence Officer, COMNAVGER; and officers of the Munich office of COMNAVGER. The COMNAVGER plane was used to and from the Mediterranean but the passengers were not identified to the crew. The visit was coordinated with the chief of the CIA's GIS sponsor unit.

2. It is believed that the visit was a complete success and that GEHLEN was greatly impressed and gained some understanding of the capabilities and tasks of modern naval forces. A detailed report of the visit is set forth in the paragraphs below. An itinerary of the trip is forwarded as enclosure (3).

3. Trip from Munich to Villefranche

a. On 5 September 1955 Gen. GEHLEN and "SEPP" OBERMAYER arrived at Neubiberg AFB escorted by (CIA). The trio remained in the car, parked outside of the passenger lounge, until the plane arrived. Prior to the arrival of the COMNAVGER aircraft, the party was met by this officer, and upon the arrival of the plane, by Capt. R. G. ARMSTRONG, USN, Chief of Staff, COMNAVGER. GEHLEN, who does not like to travel by air, expressed gratitude for the pills against air sickness provided by Capt. ARMSTRONG. After a smooth take-off, GEHLEN

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enjoyed a box lunch (inspite of the bumps caused by head winds). He remarked about the effectiveness of the pills and inquired about the possibility of getting a small supply for his planned journey to the United States in January. Obviously content with the world, GEHLEN talked about his coming CIA-sponsored visit to Washington, D.C., and his desire to return leisurely by ship. He also talked about a vacation he plans to take with his family next year; he likes camping and outdoor life.

b. While over France heading for Marseilles, GEHLEN talked about his eldest daughter (21 years old) and her return from Italy the day before. He stated that his daughter is at times a courier for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that during her last journey an inquisitive German Customs Official almost found the diplomatic pouch. GEHLEN was proud of his daughter's foresight in placing the pouch below a layer of soiled feminine "niceties" at the bottom of the bag. The official inspected the contents of the bag as far as the soiled "niceties" but terminated his inspection there. Use of his daughter for courier runs was necessitated by lack of personnel at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to GEHLEN, the courier runs are not as dangerous now as in the days just after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was recognized by the Allies.

c. OBERMAYER made no secret of the written brief which he had prepared for GEHLEN on the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet activities in the Mediterranean and on the NATO Naval Commands. He had prepared a three (3) page essay on the history of a modern aircraft carrier which was carefully read by GEHLEN. Prior to the briefing GEHLEN asked the source of the material. In German, OBERMAYER answered "from open publications and the British".

4. Arrival and Evening of 5 September 1955:

a. Customs delays, identity and passport inspections were avoided at Nice by the arrangements made by LCDR E. W. HOLLOWAY, Flag Lieutenant to the Commander Sixth Fleet. LCDR HOLLOWAY met the plane with two (2) sedans and arranged a smooth passage off the field. GEHLEN admired the warm sunny weather and tropical scenery and talked about the history of Nice and Villefranche.

b. At the pier near Villefranche the COMSIXTHFLT barge awaited the party. The party went aboard the USS SALEM at 1735 and was greeted by LCDR R. G. HARTMAN, USN. The SALEM was so spotlessly clean and shipshape that the party "begged pardon" when shoes missed the runners on deck. GEHLEN was impressed by his first contact with the U.S. Navy, and especially with the attention devoted to him. He saved as a souvenir a memorandum presented him with the roster of ship's officers, ships stores, soda fountain and tobacco shop hours of operation, etc. A copy of this memorandum, which pleased GEHLEN very much, is forwarded as enclosure (1).

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c. That evening, in preference to attending the movies on the fantail, GEHLEN strolled the narrow streets of Villefranche in the company of the party. While waiting for the captain's gig to return aboard, this officer talked alone with GEHLEN.

5. Events of 6 September aboard USS SALEM:

a. On 6 September after breakfast, SALEM hoisted anchor and proceeded at slow speed to her rendezvous with the Sixth Fleet. After an inspection of ship's spaces, GEHLEN came to the subject of GIS accreditation. He anticipated no serious setbacks and foresaw no difficulties in gaining parliamentary approval of his organization. He realized that it would be dangerous if the GIS's accreditation were made a political issue, and considered it his personal achievement that the GIS is above politics. He said he has influential friends in both the government and opposition parties, but still anticipates lengthy parliamentary debates. He is prepared to make minor concessions as the debates progress. With binoculars in hand and seated in the command chair on the Admiral's bridge, GEHLEN was the picture of a man with confidence in his future, and appeared to be in command of the situation.

b. Prior to the last luncheon aboard the SALEM on 7 September, GEHLEN asked this officer if Admiral OFSTIE would like a short briefing on the GIS. This was left to his own discretion, and he appeared very pleased. Immediately preceding the luncheon a small Corsican fishing craft appeared whose Skipper asked help to repair his engines. GEHLEN followed the fishing craft incident with interest and was impressed that the cruiser stopped to render assistance to the Corsican craft. The lunch was a festive one and the atmosphere relaxed and friendly. Seated to the right of Admiral OFSTIE, GEHLEN missed a bite several times in his eagerness to provide quick and accurate answers to the Admiral's questions about Germany, its economic condition and future.

c. After lunch the party relaxed in comfortable chairs and engaged in social conversation. Afterwards, GEHLEN gave a dignified briefing on the GIS, and avoided any attempt at sensationalism. He presented matters accurately, including details of initial setbacks. According to GEHLEN, the last parliamentary recess found the GIS accepted in principal, but various technicalities including approval of the budget remain to be settled during the October-November parliamentary session. He anticipated no problems, however, which he could not overcome by the concessions he is prepared to grant. The GIS mission, as explained by GEHLEN, is the collection and evaluation of political, economic, and military intelligence. He explained that his Chief of Naval Evaluation, OBERMAYER, will be assigned the naval evaluation desk at the Ministry of Defense in addition to his present responsibilities with GIS. He stressed the need for centralization of all collection efforts for economy reasons and added that this trip made him realize the need for reliable naval intelligence. GEHLEN then talked about the "small but effective" future German Navy in the Baltic which was to be ready to frustrate

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any Soviet attempt at invasion of Denmark, and added that the German Navy may one day be worthy of a offensive mission in the Baltic. He talked about the need for close cooperation with the NATO intelligence community, and indicated that he had taken steps to establish liaison contacts with other countries. GEHLEN made it plain that he has close contact with Chancellor ADENAUER, and predicted that the Chancellor's mission to Moscow is bound to fail. According to GEHLEN, ADENAUER was cognizant of the fact that he might meet hard Soviet demands and hardly be accorded an opportunity to enter into serious negotiations. He therefore excluded from his party the Minister of Economics and his advisory staff. GEHLEN believed the Chancellor might succeed in negotiating the release of the German prisoners of war, but that Soviet propaganda would arrange for the credit to go to the GDR. It must be said that GEHLEN fascinated his small audience, and that he was aware of this fact.

d. In the late afternoon a briefing was arranged for the visitors in the presence of Admiral OFSTIE. The composition of the Sixth Fleet and some of its operations and operational areas were reviewed by Capt. R. L. SHIVLEY, the Plans and Operations Officer; logistic and supply problems were presented by Capt. E. D. STANLEY, Fleet Logistic Officer. GEHLEN displayed keen interest in the intricate supply problems and the U.S. Navy developed methods of refueling and replenishing at sea.

e. Escorted by Admiral OFSTIE, GEHLEN was shown the assembled fleet and both aircraft carriers. The Plan of the Day, forwarded herewith as enclosure (2), indicates 1415 as flight quarters to transfer passengers to the USS CORAL SEA. GEHLEN, with perfume from the ship's store and a box of cigars for State Secretary Dr. GLOEKE, was transferred with Capt. ARMSTRONG by the first flight. The party was sent away with friendly waves from the Sixth Fleet Commander and his staff. During the visit GEHLEN extended an invitation to Admiral OFSTIE to visit him in Germany.

6. 7-9 September - USS CORAL SEA:

a. The helicopter was met by Admiral EKSTROM, COMCARDIV 6, and his Chief of Staff. Shortly after he arrived on the Admiral's bridge, GEHLEN commented on the sharp difference between the SALEM and the CORAL SEA. GEHLEN remarked that the crew of the SALEM sweat to maintain her polish and dignity, that of the CORAL SEA to get a hard job done. His remark was appropriate, since the CORAL SEA was in midst of refueling from a tanker which was topping-off a destroyer on the other side.

b. With refueling underway, two cruisers and a submarine nearby, and refueling and replenishing ships on the horizon, GEHLEN was at a loss to find the right camera, although he had two (2) MINOX cameras (one loaded with black and white, the other with colored film); one (1) Minox light meter; one (1) Robot camera with telescopic lens; one (1) Leica with telescopic lens; one (1)

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Exakta loaded with colored film; and one (1) Minox fixed to his binoculars. He respected the desires of the Commander Sixth Fleet, however, and avoided taking pictures of electronic equipment.

c. After dinner GEHLEN watched the landing of jet aircraft aboard the darkened ship. As the first jet landed with a deafening roar and a terrific impact, and the heat of the jet thrust reached the bridge, GEHLEN jumped back against this officer, believing the jet had crashed. As other jets landed in precision he expressed his admiration for the tactics developed by the U.S. Navy, the efficiency of the entire crew, the technical superiority of the U.S. Navy, and the strategic importance of a modern aircraft carrier.

7. On the morning of 8 September GEHLEN was among the first to arrive at breakfast and was eager to observe the launching and landing of aircraft. During breakfast he thanked Admiral EKSTROM for the opportunity to witness carrier operations, which he described as the most interesting and exciting technical development he had ever seen. Throughout that day it was impossible to talk to him on any topic not pertaining to carrier activities. He listened attentively to all explanations by Admiral EKSTROM, his Chief of Staff, and Capt ARMSTRONG, and sought out every opportunity to learn more about air operations, the carrier's tasks, and naval aviation in general. Escorted by a Marine orderly, GEHLEN appeared to be in his own milieu, and he enjoyed every minute of it. The next event of interest was the transfer of a hospital case by highline from a destroyer to the carrier. Afterwards, GEHLEN was introduced to the film "Victory at Sea", parts of which were shown in the Senior Officer's country briefing room.

8. a. After the catapult launching of 6 jets on 9 September, GEHLEN asked this officer about the possibility of a U.S. Navy invitation to General HEUSINGER and ex-Admiral WAGNER to observe carrier and fleet operations. According to GEHLEN, these two individuals will be influential in the development of the future German Navy, and he felt that they should be made aware of the capabilities of modern ships and the vital strategic importance of naval aviation. GEHLEN asked the advisability of inviting State Secretary Dr. GLOEBKE for a similar visit as a guest of the U.S. Navy. Later, he turned to Admiral EKSTROM to learn more about the plans of the Sixth Fleet and the U.S. Navy's plans for its operational forces in this area. GEHLEN then talked about German military activities during WW II in the Black Sea area and the Balkans. He stated that the Sixth Fleet was preserving the moral of the peoples of Greece, Italy, and particularly Spain. He explained that even in Germany the presence of the USN forces in the Mediterranean is most assuring, and that most of West German planning in the Near East is based upon the presence of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. That same evening at the dinner table and prior to the movies he spoke freely about his views on India, Turkey, and Greece.

b. GEHLEN twice invited Admiral EKSTROM to visit Germany, and offered to place a car at the Admiral's disposal.

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9. Arrival in Palma, Majorca: 0800 on 10 September-the arrival at Palma, Majorca, the 21 gun salute of the CORAL SEA, and the white dress uniforms impressed GEHLEN. Later he voiced his appreciation of the need for reliable naval intelligence in the countries of call of the Sixth Fleet and asked whether the Sixth Fleet would appreciate the receipt of GIS intelligence. This was the second time that GEHLEN indicated the possibility of arranging for the release of GIS collected intelligence to U.S. Navy operational commanders.

10. Strolling through the streets of Palma, GEHLEN talked about the Spanish people, their history and struggles, and displayed keen knowledge of the political and economic conditions in Spain. He commented upon the loyalty of the Spanish in general, and in the utmost of secrecy, he revealed that he has established a very friendly liaison with leading Spanish military personalities. At 1030 that morning the group departed Majorca for Munich aboard the COMNAVFOR aircraft.

11. It is believed that GEHLEN's visit was in every way a success. He was visibly impressed by the Sixth Fleet, very pleased by the attention and courtesies given him by Admirals OSTIE and EKSTROM, and very anxious to win the respect (and support) of the U.S. Navy for his organization.

V. L. RYCHELY

Copy to:

Copy No. 2 to COMNAVFOR

Copy No. 3 to CIA (6966 SDU) for Col. CRITCHFIELD's EYES Only

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UNITED STATES SIXTH FLEET

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. GEBLER

Welcome aboard the Flagship of Commander SIXTH Fleet.

The attached list of Staff Officers, notice of hours of operation of the ship's stores and instructions concerning the Flag Mess are provided for your information.

The Captain's Cabin has been assigned for your use while aboard. Your room steward's name is VEBARES.

You are invited to eat all meals in the Flag Mess which is composed of the following members:

VADM R.A. OFSTIE (Commander SIXTH Fleet)

CAPT C.L. FREEMAN (Chief of Staff to ComSIXTHFLT)

CAPT R.L. SHIFLEY (Plans and Operations Officer, ComSIXTHFLT)

CAPT E.D. STANDLY (Fleet Logistics Officer ComSIXTHFLT)

LCDR T.E. BASS (Flag Secretary, ComSIXTHFLT)

LCDR E.W. HOLLOWAY (Flag Lieutenant, ComSIXTHFLT)

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance during your visit.

Very Respectfully,

/s/ E.W. HOLLOWAY

E.W. HOLLOWAY

Lieutenant Commander, USN

Flag Lieutenant

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Enclosure (1) to MUNICH REP of  
COMNAVGER Ser 00017-55

ES-110-174

[ ]

Sunrise: 0600  
Sunset: 1855

USS SALEM (CA 139)  
PLAN OF THE DAY  
Wednesday, 7 September 1955

UNIFORM OF THE DAY: Officers and CPO's: Working Khaki  
Other Enlisted: Undress White BAKER  
Marines to correspond

Carry out "At Sea" routine except as noted below:

- 0000 - 2400 - SALEM AD Ship and Rescue Helicopter Guard
- 0500 - Prepare to TOP-OFF one Destroyer (Divisions concerned call own personnel)
- 0530 - Man stations for refueling destroyer
- 0545 - Destroyer alongside for fueling
- 0600 - (1) Reveille  
(2) Early breakfast for observers going to USS WORCESTER
- 0630 - Breakfast
- 0700 - (About) Transfer Damage Control and Engineering Observers from SALEM to WORCESTER by #1 and 2 MWB or high line fore and aft. Rig debarkation net Starboard Quarters. UNIFORM - Officers and CPO's - Working Khaki with ties; Other Enlisted Undress White ABLE
- 0730 - Muster on stations
- 0740 (about) General Quarters for AA Firing (AA George and AA Surprise)
- 1130 - Noon meal
- 1240 - Man CIC and Gunnery Control Stations for competitive Target Designation and Acquisition Exercise
- 1300 - Turn to
- 1415 - (About) Flight Quarters to transfer passengers to CORAL SEA
- 1700 - (1) Evening meal  
(2) (About) Observers return to SALEM by boats or high line fore and aft
- 1915 - Protestant Mid-Week Devotions (Crew's Lounge)
- 2000 - Movies on the Fantail

WATCH LIST

00-04 LTJG HOFFMANN-LTJG R.B. RYAN	ENS RUSSELL
04-08 LTJG MC NAUGHTON-LTJG LEAHY	ENS BLERICH
08-12 LTJG WHEELER-LTJG MOLTEN	ENS HOLDING
12-16 LTJG W.C. HALL-LTJG KELLEY	ENS ADKINS
16-18 LTJG FERRALD-ENS YOUNG	ENS CHAMIAN
18-20 LTJG HOFFMANN-LTJG R.B. RYAN	ENS RUSSELL
20-24 LTJG MC NAUGHTON-LTJG KELLEY	ENS HOLDING

NOTES

1. Allotments will be started and stopped at the Disbursing Office Today.

E. M. LUBY  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
Executive Officer

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
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Itinerary of GHELEN and his Naval Assistant, Albrecht "SEPP" OBERMAYER

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5 Sept: 1145: Departed Munich via COMNAVGER Aircraft from Neubiberg Air Force Base (Munich vicinity)

Escort: CAPT R. G. ARMSTRONG, Chief of Staff, COMNAVGER  
LCDR V. L. RYCHLY, Munich Representative of COMNAVGER

Luncheon: Box lunch aboard aircraft

1700: Arrival Nice: met by LCDR F. W. HOLLOWAY, USN (Flag Lieutenant, COMSIXTHFLT)

1735: Arrival Villefranche

1740: Departed Villefranche via COMSIXTHFLT barge

1745: Embark Flagship USS SALEM (met by LCDR R. G. HARTMAN, USN, Ass't Fleet Intelligence Officer)

1815: Dinner in Admiral OFSTIE's Cabin

Billeting: GHELEN in Captain's Cabin  
Herr OBERMAYER in Cabin 315

2030-2130: Sightseeing Villefranche

6 Sept: 0745: Breakfast in Admiral's Cabin

0830: Escorted by LCDR HARTMAN through ship's spaces

1200: Luncheon in Admiral's Cabin

1300: Gunnery exercises 3" and 5" guns

1500: Rendezvous of the Fleet

1800: Dinner in Admiral's Cabin

1945: Movie in Captain's Cabin

7 Sept: 0745: Breakfast in Admiral's Cabin

0830: Inspection of below deck spaces, incl. engine room

1015: Gunnery exercise, including A/C sleeve runs

1400: Departure by helicopter to CORAL SEA to observe flight operations

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1530: Refueling at sea

Billeting: GEHLEN: Cabin of CAPT D. P. SMITH Jr., USN, Chief of Staff, Commander Carrier Division SIX  
Herr OBERMAYER: Cabin 0256

1800: Dinner in Admiral's Cabin

1900: Jet night operations and air strikes (darken ship)

8 Sept: 0745: Breakfast in Admiral's Cabin

0915: Observation of air strikes

1200: Lunch in Admiral's Cabin

1400: Inspection of ship's spaces: remote control drone gunnery exercise

1950: Highline transfer (Hospital case)

2015: Movie in Senior Officer's spaces

9 Sept: 0230: Replenishment at sea

0745: Breakfast

0800: Replenishment at sea

1200: Luncheon

1300: Air strikes including rocket, A/A firing on ~~available~~ and low targets

1800: Dinner

2015: Movie

10 Sept: 0745: Breakfast

0800: Departure by barge to Palma, Majorca

0830: Sightseeing in Palma

1030: Departure by COMNAVGRU Aircraft

1625: Arrival in Munich

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