

Dear General Geblen:

I am delighted to hear of the German plans for a University of Human Rights, and I wholeheartedly encourage you to support the project, if in your view the sponsoring group is entirely capable and reliable. The need is great, so no question of conflicting interests is likely to arise.

Permit me to suggest that West Berlin would be an excellent site for the proposed University. An appropriate form of association with the Free University should simplify certain organizational and administrative problems. The plan should carefully avoid provocation, so as not to constitute a vulnerable target to Communist propaganda. The presence of an international faculty in West Berlin at a free institution of recognized academic stature would in itself constitute a deterrent to ill-considered Soviet action in Berlin. On the other hand the Berlin scene should provide a useful close-up contrast between east and west for students from the emerging areas.

I do not wish to give the impression that Berlin should be chosen without full consideration of the serious physical security problems inherent in the vulnerability of West Berlin to Communist subversive operations. Careful selection of faculty and student body, the provision of academic supervision and social services, the maintenance of high morale and discipline among a student body including a large underdeveloped area contingent, would be no easy task in any event. Organizing such an institute and affording it adequate protection in West Berlin would be even more difficult. However, problems are at the same time challenges. A first rate effort in Berlin would probably yield greater results than those attainable at any other site.

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If it is your intention that the BND play an actual supporting role in this project, it is altogether possible that certain U.S. interests would seriously consider making American teachers to participate on a visiting basis.

I am looking forward to your April visit with great pleasure.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

cc: DDCI

Signature Recommended:

Deputy Director
(Plans)

DDP/EE/G:C spc (24 January 1961)

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