

SECRET

Chief, Munich Liaison Base

Chief of Station, Germany

Chief, EE

Transmittal of Letter

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17 July 1961

EGMS-3023

SECRET

C/EE

Gordon M. Stewart

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D/EE/G/CA 17 July

C/EE

Gordon M. Stewart

Attachment
to EGMS-300

17 July 1961

My dear General Gehlen:

May I take this opportunity to convey to you our genuine appreciation for the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest with Mr. Herre during the course of his recent visit to the United States. We trust the discussions were as valuable to him and to the BND as they were to us. One item, the matter of our overt contacts program, was the subject of a particularly stimulating discussion in terms of the possibility that the BND might initiate such a program, and I promised Mr. Herre I would write to you personally to express some of my views.

The background of this subject is, of course, not new to you since we have briefed you and several of your staff members about our contacts operations on several occasions. I do wish to reemphasize that we feel our overt contacts program has been a very substantial success. We believe that with modifications, the idea could be equally successfully employed by your organization in spite of the special problems which you face in Germany. The completely non-clandestine aspect of our contact with the business and professional world has been our guarantee that such operations can be carried out on a large scale without significant embarrassment. In fact, positive benefits are reaped entirely aside from the intelligence product. We demonstrated to Mr. Herre how this program has contributed significantly to our store of basic intelligence in the economic, scientific, geographic and sociological fields. We feel that in addition to receiving intelligence concerning the Communist orbit, we have been able through this program to acquire much useful data concerning the underdeveloped areas of the world. The value of this material in planning and validating our government aid programs cannot be exaggerated.

It appears to my colleagues and myself that with Germany playing such a key role in world affairs, and with German businessmen and professional people travelling to all corners of the earth, an overt operation of this sort would add very substantially to the intelligence potential of your organization. In addition, such a program might serve you well over a period of time by establishing and fostering a feeling of good will toward the BND among the members of the German business community which would make itself felt in terms of improved opportunities for clandestine operations.

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Should you undertake to organize a contacts program, please do not hesitate to call upon me for any assistance or information you feel might aid in the solution of the many problems such an operation necessarily incurs.

Faithfully,

Gordon M. Stewart

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