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File in Washington Rep.

12 September 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cocktails at alias DESSAU's Home on 31 August 1966

1. The party turned out to be more relaxed than is usual with parties at @ DESSAU's. Alias DESSAU himself appeared somewhat less tense than usual, although, when the air conditioning proved to be inadequate to the number of guests, he insisted on rushing about making personal apologies to each and every guest. He seems to be genuinely proud of daughter Sybilla and discussed at length her activities at the University of Marquette where she apparently earned top scholastic honors. Perhaps she offers a form of substitution for the son he lost.

2. Sybilla struck me as a rather plain girl who is wrapped up in her children and husband. She was obviously somewhat tired from her recent travels and, apparently, conditions in the DESSAU household are rather crowded what with her three children and Baerbel now living at home. I should judge that she is quite intelligent, but like any young mother with young and active children she probably has little opportunity to pursue anything other than the children. I did not have a great deal of opportunity to talk with her husband. He is an extremely nice looking, quite young in appearance, rather soft spoken and appeared to have a smile for everyone. I must admit that he probably felt himself something of a stranger in that crowd but he seemed to handle himself quite well. He speaks German with a Viennese accent but appears equally at home in either English or German.

3. I spent a good part of the evening talking with Count zu RANTZAU. His family apparently has sizable holdings in the neighborhood of Eckenernfoerde but he indicated that he has not been home for almost six years. He was stationed in Singapore for three years prior to his assignment here in Washington. He described his position here as that of personal assistant to the Ambassador. He seems to enjoy his work immensely and he finds Washington a most pleasant post. The Count is a bachelor but he complained that Washington really doesn't live up to its reputation as a bachelor's paradise. He seemed to be treated with a good deal of deference by all the Germans but this is probably basically due to his family and position. He does have a certain amount of charm. He presents an almost ludicrous figure, being somewhat short and combing his rather limp hair down in all directions from the crown. On the other hand, he is a lively and engaging conversationalist and probably does his job quite well. At a later time in the evening, I watched him in action as he arranged a meeting for the next morning between General WESSEL and Minister von STACKELBERG to smooth out some misunderstanding which had arisen between these two gentlemen. He certainly held his own with both of these worthies and appeared to have gotten the matter back on the right track.

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4. Alias DESSAU made a special point of introducing me to Admiral CRABB of the Australian Embassy. I found the Admiral and his wife to be a most charming couple. They both originally came from England but they appear to be Australian to the core. They said this was their first visit to the DESSAU's home and they appear to have been invited because Sybilla and her husband are Australians. The diplomatic list has the following entry:

Rear Admiral G. John B. CRABB, D.S.C., Attache (Defense Adviser).

5. I spoke briefly to General WESSEL and recalled to him our earlier meeting in Bonn in 1958. We reminisced for a time and he then stated that he expected to be reassigned to Germany next March. I asked to which job he would be assigned and indicated that the pyramid begins to get quite narrow when one reaches his rank. He agreed with this but said that he really didn't know to which job he would be assigned. I asked whether his reassignment might have anything to do with the current "revolt of the Generals" but he denied this, saying that as he understood it, it was simply a matter of tours being limited to three years and his time would unfortunately be up. I can't help but recall General WESSEL's secretary's statement to [] that she still expects to return to Munich with WESSEL one of these days. Couple this with the fact that GEHLEN's birthday is in April and you have a rather provocative idea.

6. In addition to the rather sizable group of the DESSAU family, the following were there as best I recall. Undoubtedly, I've missed a couple:

| CIA | Non CIA |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Mr. and Mrs. Critchfield | Leo SAAL and wife |
| Mr. and Mrs. [] | Admiral and Mrs. CRABB (Australia) |
| Mr. and Mrs. [] | Mr. and Mrs. Peter BAZOWSKI (Canada RCM) |
| Mr. and Mrs. [] | Berndt von STADDEN and wife (German Embassy) |
| Mr. and Mrs. [] | Baron von STACKELBERG and wife |
| [] | Count Detlev zu RANTZAU |
| Mr. and Mrs. [] | General WESSEL (Military Liaison Mission) |
| Mr. John Comstock | Christa WESSEL |
| [] State; now private business) | Frl. von HAGEN (National Geographic) |
| | General FERDER and wife (Mil. Liaison Mission) |

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