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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted] (b)(3)

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY West Germany

DATE DISTR. 22 December 1952

SUBJECT German Generals Imprisoned as War Criminals

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

REFERENCE COPY

NO. OF ENCLS. LISTED BELOW

(b)(3)

DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted] (b)(3)

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SOURCE [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

1. [redacted] Lt. General a.D. Adolf Heusinger, (b)(1) who repeatedly stressed the importance of releasing former military war criminals. Heusinger stated that he was probably instrumental in the release of former Field Marshal Mackensen from the British prison at Verli. He reported that he had discussed Mackensen's case with Lord Alexander during the latter's latest visit in Germany to witness the British field maneuver "Holdfast". Lord Alexander, against whom Mackensen fought during the Italian campaign, informed him that he would look into the case. This conversation was held approximately ten days before Mackensen was released. The British are holding now only General Manstein, and he is actually not in confinement but furloughed for hospitalization. The French have released all of their General officer war criminals. That leaves the United States as the only western nation which still holds German generals in confinement. (b)(3)
2. Heusinger believes that the Americans should not wait for the establishment of the Arbitrational Tribunal to study the cases of the former general officers in Landsberg. He has discussed the problem with General Ridgway who informed him that he should take the matter up with Generals Handy and Eddy. He was also of the opinion that Ridgway planned to inform Handy. However, to date he has heard from neither Handy nor Eddy.
3. General Heusinger's opinion on how to handle the release or furlough of top army generals in Landsberg is somewhat presumptive but simply stated is as follows:
 - a. Of the ten ranking generals in Landsberg, three should receive immediate consideration. They are Generals List and Kunze and Field Marshal Kuechler, all of whom are seventy years of age. He feels that these three, on the basis of age alone, can be released, and that they have in fact already served seven years, to which three years can be added for good behavior, making a total of ten years.¹
 - b. The remaining general officers in Landsberg are Generals Balmuth, Hoth, Handloser, Schroeder, Milch, Reinicke and Harlimont. Heusinger stated that only the last two,

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[redacted] (b)(3)

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Reinicke and Warlimont, are sticky cases, for whom we probably cannot do anything. However, some of the others could be furloughed now into their own custody but subject to periodic reporting. In such a way the US would be able to avoid the charge of releasing war criminals. They would have been placed merely on furlough pending the final action of the Arbitration Tribunal.

- c. Heusinger realizes that the US cannot reconsider these cases from a juridical point of view. However, he suggested that the US establish three categories of generals in confinement which would consider only the number of years each person had been sentenced. For example, Category A could contain all those with sentences up to fifteen years; Category B, all sentences up to twenty-five years; Category C, all sentences up to and including life.

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

4. It has recently come to the attention of Heusinger and others that [redacted] an American on the staff of Ambassador Donnelly, has been asked to prepare a brief on the status of the prisoners in Landsberg. According to Heusinger, his recommendations were quite similar to those enumerated above - - the release or furlough of the eight and the continued confinement of Generals Reinicke and Warlimont.

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

5. [redacted] deplorable that recently convicted Soviet espionage agents are also confined in Landsberg and that they live side by side with German Field Marshals and generals who fought against the Soviet Union. He further stated that the espionage agents receive relatively minor sentences and are soon out on parole, if not released outright.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

6. General Ramcke's recent diatribe against US policy towards war criminals is extreme and does not reflect the thinking of the average officer. However, Heusinger and other members of the planning committee believe that the US must revise its policy and clarify its position to the extent that the generals be granted furloughs pending the considered opinion of the Arbitration Tribunal. Such a move would take the wind out of the radical element of the officer corps.

1. [redacted]

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