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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

HEUSINGER, Adolf - Lieutenant General (Equivalent U. S.
Major General):

Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger was born in Holz-
minden on the Weser on 4 August 1897, the son of Professor
Ludwig Heusinger, member of an old Brunswick family of theo-
logians and philologists. He entered the German Army as an
officer candidate in the 97th Infantry Regiment in Gera and
Rudolstadt, and received his commission in July 1916. He
fought against the western front and was taken prisoner by
the British in September. He returned to his military career
in January 1921. Upon completion of three years general staff
officers' training at the War Academy in 1930, Heusinger was
assigned to the Operations Division of the Army General Staff
in Berlin in 1931. In September of this year he married Gerda
nee Krueger; they have two daughters.

From 1934 until 1937 Heusinger served with infantry
units and was appointed first general staff officer of the
Operations Division of the Army General Staff in 1937. In
1940 he was made chief of the Operations Division. In this
post, Heusinger participated in the planning and direction
of strategic operations for the military campaigns in Poland,
France, the Balkans and USSR. He also was in charge of the
selection and training of general staff officers. Heusinger
was present at the attempt on Hitler's life on 20 July 1944,
was injured by the explosion and arrested on suspicion of
complicity in the plot. Lacking sufficient evidence for his
indictment, he was released by the Gestapo and placed on sick
leave status under surveillance. (It is known, from OSS
records, that Heusinger was a member of the group of German
generals who were eager to negotiate with the Western Powers,
at almost any cost, to prevent the Russians from gaining con-
trol of Germany.)

Heusinger surrendered to the U. S. Army on 4 May 1945.
He was interrogated extensively by Nurnberg trial officials
regarding his connection with the Kommissar Order of June 1941,
the Kommando Order of September 1942 and other orders, declared
criminal per se by the International Military Tribunal.
Heusinger was not tried, however, on the grounds that as a
staff officer he could not be held responsible for the execution
of these orders. U. S. Army officers who also interrogated
Heusinger found him cooperative. It is to be noted that he
never joined the NSDAP.

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In 1946 Heusinger worked with the EUCOM Historical Division as a consultant on the organization of the German Army High Command. Later, he served as deputy director in charge of post-war studies on German military operations of World War II. In 1947 he joined General Gehlen's intelligence organization, at that time held in trusteeship by the U. S. Army. As chief of Gehlen's evaluation group, Heusinger won the respect of both his American and German colleagues for his professional competence and personal integrity. The excellence of Gehlen's evaluation staff today is due, in some measure, to Heusinger's supervision from 1947 until 1951. At one time, CIA representatives seriously considered Heusinger for Gehlen's position.

Owing to his long career as a General Staff officer, Heusinger has been deeply interested in German remilitarization. He has, however, remained aloof from the political intrigues of the various groups of former German officers agitating for West German rearmament and recognition from the Bonn Government. As a result, in the fall of 1951 Heusinger emerged as a ranking representative of moderate elements of the former German officers corps and Adenauer, with Schumacher's approval, appointed him to an advisory committee established to initiate consultative liaison with Allied military authorities. In this quasi-official capacity as military spokesman for Chancellor Adenauer, Heusinger had several conferences with Mr. McCloy, General George P. Hays, Mr. Samuel Reber and Dr. Conant. On 22 January 1951, Adenauer, Heusinger and General Hans Speidel were the guests of Mr. McCloy at a dinner in honor of General Eisenhower. On this occasion, Eisenhower singled out Heusinger and Speidel to explain his 1945 views on German generals and to assure them of his high regard for the German professional soldier and of his interest in the integration of West German Armed Forces into the European Defense Community. This meeting left a profound impression on Heusinger who felt Eisenhower shared his optimism for the future of West German contingents in the defense of Europe.

By the fall of 1951, Heusinger was officially established in the office of Theodor Blank as top military advisor. In the summer of 1952 he was designated coordinator of German military defense planning. In this position he has been a deft mediator between the Adenauer Government, the Socialist Party, former German officers groups, and Allied military authorities. Blank has described Heusinger as one of his most loyal and able associates.

At the end of November 1952, Heusinger conferred in Paris with Generals Gruenther and Ridgway at the latter's invitation. In reporting on this meeting to a CIA representative in Germany, Heusinger urged relaxation of the Department of Defense ruling limiting U. S.-West German military liaison in Germany on the grounds that the U. S. was losing the initiative in cultivating the German military to the British. Heusinger also reiterated his plea that the U. S. take positive steps for the release of the Landsberg prisoners. To Heusinger's great satisfaction, regular liaison between the Blank Office and Generals Handy and Eddy was established in March 1953.

Dissociation from Intelligence:

Heusinger remained on General Gehlen's staff, at the latter's request, until his appointment to the Blank Office in the fall of 1951. During 1950 in his dual role as unofficial military advisor and senior officer of a U. S. subsidized West German intelligence organization, Heusinger was an influential representative of U. S. interests in both German remilitarization and the Gehlen group. However, with his assignment to Bonn and return to his military career, Heusinger has gradually dissociated himself from intelligence affairs. From time to time, owing to his personal loyalty to Gehlen and his genuine interest in the future of the Gehlen organization, Heusinger has been a helpful mediator between Gehlen and his adversaries in the Bonn Government. He has also kept Gehlen apprised of governmental developments relating to the future of German intelligence. At the same time, Heusinger has continued to consult with and confide in CIA representatives with whom he was associated as a member of the Gehlen organization. He has voluntarily kept us informed, reporting with remarkable candor, on political, military and intelligence matters of interest to U. S. policy makers. CIA representatives have found Heusinger's political views clearly in the interest of the U. S.

During this past year, CIA representatives working with the Gehlen organization have noted that Heusinger has become increasingly preoccupied with his official duties in the Blank Office and further removed from the affairs of General Gehlen. In an off-the-record conversation with a CIA representative in March 1953, Heusinger indicated that he aspires to the position of Commanding General of the EDC Army. It is the opinion of a number of former German generals that Heusinger will not emerge as the Commanding General of German contingents, but that he has an excellent chance of becoming the first Chief of Staff.