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Among the important German personalities concerned with the question of remilitarizing Germany, three of unusual interest to CIA are becoming steadily more prominent: the former Generals Heusinger, Foertsch, and Speidel.

Since 1946 Adolf Heusinger has been one of the most responsible and effectual leaders of Rusty. As chief of the Evaluation Group he has won the respect both of Americans and of his German colleagues for his professional competence and his personal integrity. Like others of his rank and experience he is deeply interested in re-militarization and its attendant political and governmental problems, but we are convinced that at no time has he been motivated by personal ambitions or engaged in political intrigues of the sort which appear to be common in Bonn. Now 54 years of age, he has been a career officer since 1915, rising by 1945 to lieutenant general. Among some of his important duties with OKH (Army High Command) were the selection and training of candidates for the General Staff Corps. In 1943 he became G-3 of the German Army. He was present at the attempt on Hitler's life on 20 July 1944 and was injured by the explosion; arrested on suspicion of complicity in the plot, he was later released for lack of evidence.

Hermann Foertsch, now 55, is the man responsible for periodic orientation of Rusty German personnel. He was a General of Infantry, at one time chief of staff of an army group and then commanding general of an army. He was Kesselring's representative at the surrender to General Devers, and was later cleared of war-crimes charges at Muernberg.

Hans Speidel, now 53, was a lieutenant general and chief of staff to Rommel in France. Like Heusinger, with whom he has been closely associated since 1924, he was arrested immediately after the attempt on Hitler's life. He has been more active in political and military affairs since the war than the others, and is less closely associated with Rusty, but he enjoys Heusinger's confidence.

Although all three are noteworthy, we have come to feel that Heusinger is the outstanding man among all the former generals now concerned with remilitarization. From the point of view both of the United States and of the West German Government, his abilities and character mark him as a man of merited importance.

CIA has been following the developments surrounding German militarization as closely as possible, and naturally will be glad to place all procurable information on other German officers at the disposal of the High Commissioner should he desire it.

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