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23 December 1950

TO: ADSO
FROM: FDM
SUBJECT: Generalleutnant Adolf Heusinger

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In the Washington Post this morning a story datelined Bonn announced the appointment of the West German Military Committee which is to negotiate with the Allies on the German contribution to a West European Army. According to the announcement, the German committee is to consist of Dr. Theodore Blank, Chairman, Generalleutnant Adolf Heusinger, and Generalleutnant Hans Speidel. In Heusinger you will recognize Dr. Horn, Chief of the Zipper Evaluation Group. Speidel is a close friend of Heusinger and has been under his influence since the war in matters involving the future of the German military.

Both Heusinger and Speidel are persona grata to Dr. Kurt Schumacher, Chief of the SPD. Although he did not meet Heusinger until comparatively recently, he was impressed by his intellect and his views on the military problems facing West Germany. Speidel has long been a friend of Carlo Schmid, one of Schumacher's principal colleagues in the SPD.

Heusinger is regarded by the OSO staff at Zipper as a "convinced democrat" in the western sense of the term. He is well liked by them as a person and makes an excellent impression on Americans, whether civilian or military. He is 53 years old, was Chief of Operations, OKH, 1943-1944, was injured by the bomb explosion in the 20 July attempt on Hitler's life, was arrested by the Gestapo on suspicion of complicity, was released for lack of evidence, and was held in headquarters reserve without assignment until 25 March 1945 when he was appointed chief of the Wehrmacht map division. He was not a conspirator in the 20 July plot, but he did belong to the group of officers who was willing to negotiate peace at any price with the Western Allies to prevent the Soviet occupation of Germany.

Speidel is also 53 years old and was Chief of Staff to Rommel in both North Africa and France. Boasting good relations with the French, he is a personal friend of President Houis and a lecturer at the University of Tuebingen.

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It is thought that the Director and Mr. Dulles may be interested in the close ties we have with Heusinger. As you know, we have been maneuvering for several months to see that he received some such position, not only on the grounds that it would give us a source in highest military circles, but also because we have felt that Heusinger represented the best element in the former German General Staff from the standpoint of American interests.

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Richard Helms
Chief, FDM

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