

15 September 1953

Heusinger-201

orig. ~~West~~ ~~Her~~ ~~15~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations

SUBJECT: General Adolf Heusinger's Pre-election  
Comments on Zipper's Future in the  
Federal Republic

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

The following are highlights of General Adolf Heusinger's pre-election remarks as reported in EGLA-5241 and EGLA-5291 (attached):

a. Legalization of Zipper: General Heusinger does not share General Gehlen's view that the U. S. label on Zipper is the major deterrent to Zipper's legalization. Heusinger stated definitively that "at no time" has he heard that U. S. trusteeship of Zipper has impaired the organization's future in the Federal Republic. In fact, Heusinger said that U. S. influence in Zipper has been accepted as a logical result of Zipper's U. S. subsidy and the dominant role of the U. S. in Europe.

Heusinger regards Gehlen's preoccupation with a reduction of the CIA staff with Zipper and elimination of the opposite numbers system, i.e. working level liaison, as a product of Gehlen's consuming desire to curtail CIA operational insight to his modus operandi and intelligence assets. Heusinger remarked that Gehlen has been obsessed with this desire "for a long time."

Immediately following a two hour conference with Gehlen on 29 August, Heusinger advised that both he and Gehlen agree that Zipper's legalization can be effected prior to ratification of the Contractual Agreements provided that the U. S. concurs and is prepared to bring pressure to bear upon the British and French.

b. General Gehlen: Heusinger rejected the suggestion that Gehlen be replaced as Zipper chief on the grounds that Gehlen not only enjoys the confidence of Chancellor Adenauer and Dr. Hans Globke but also the loyalty of the rank and file of Zipper. Furthermore,

Heusinger does not think that General Horst von Mellenthin, Gehlen's deputy, could hold the organization together as a centralized GIS. Sooner or later the various components of Zipper would be dispersed throughout the Federal Republic.

Heusinger attributes recent criticism of Gehlen's meddling in internal West German affairs to fear founded on rumors regarding Zipper's domestic informants in the "Special Connections" field. Heusinger believes Gehlen can dispell these rumors, which prevail in SPD circles, by establishing better rapport with the SPD leaders. Heusinger conceded Gehlen's need for "Special Connections". It should be noted, however, that only a week or so before Heusinger deplored Gehlen's involvement in West German politics and, on this occasion, said he would again urge Gehlen to abandon his "Special Connections". He also remarked that he had never seen an intelligence report credited to Zipper's "Special Connections".

c. Blank Office: Heusinger again reported that Theodor Blank and the German Defense Planning Group are not discussing the future of German intelligence until Chancellor Adenauer has announced his final decision regarding the establishment of a centralized GIS. Blank has told Heusinger that if the Chancellor establishes a GIS the future Defense Ministry will set up its own small evaluation staff to receive the GIS information reports. If, however, the Chancellor does not establish a GIS then the Defense Ministry will have its own collection group.

Heusinger said that after studying the report on the recent investigation of Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz, controversial chief of a G-2 nucleus, he had recommended the latter's dismissal to Blank. Heusinger said he intends to check on Heinz' status early in September 1953.

PETER SICHEL  
EE/FI

EE/FIG/Z, [ ]:bw  
15 September 1953

Distribution: Orig & 1 - Addressee  
1 - EE/FI  
2 - EE/FIG/Z