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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: General Heusinger's Views on Delivery of U. S.  
Weapons to the German Federal Republic

1. In a recent conversation with Colonel Critchfield, Chief, Pullach Operations Base, General Heusinger expressed deep concern regarding the increasingly unfavorable internal German attitude toward rearmament. Heusinger feels that, from a political viewpoint, the plan for a national German army is less desirable than was the discarded EDC plan. He expressed the hope that U. S. officials on the policy making level recognize the importance of making the first delivery of U. S. arms to the new German army a major propaganda effort. In this connection he emphasized the importance of insuring that the first shipment, particularly of armor equipment, consist of the biggest, latest and best models of available American equipment. Even if this first rate equipment is delivered to Germany only in sufficient quantity to equip one division, this must, by all means, be the first division to be equipped. This measure alone would do much to weaken the charges of the opponents of rearmament that the United States considers the Germans as "cannon fodder" and will issue them only second class and obsolete equipment.

2. Colonel Critchfield assured General Heusinger that his views on this matter would be brought to your attention. General Truscott intends to discuss them with appropriate U. S. Army officers in Europe.

*Handwritten note:* Heusinger's views

3. III Division comment: The future of the German rearmament program has been the subject of much speculation in the German press and within the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Republic. It is our belief that General Heusinger's concern that the U. S. may issue second class and obsolete equipment to the new German military establishment stems largely from a lack of specific information regarding U. S. military aid plans for Germany. This situation should be remedied in the near future when further discussions between Defense Department representatives and officials of the Blank Office will be held. There is also the likelihood that German efforts to make an issue over the quality and modernity of U. S. equipment are part of a co-ordinated program to place the U. S. negotiators on the defensive and put the German officials in a better bargaining position than discuss on an equal.

- Distribution:
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HEUSINGER 201  
Chief, Western Europe Division

TE/TE/CSchmitz:iet/CH/PI/Sholberger Forward to Office of Chief of Staff

Hahn

EXTRACT

MGFA-4284, 17 Oct. -1945, Subject: Contactw with Former Generals & Views on Remilitarization:

4. On his conversations with Utility and Horn, the following was volunteered by ( ): The meeting was arranged by Grollmann. The initiative came from the two generals and ( ) was happy to meet them, also in light of our previous discussions on the two gentlemen. The conversation dealt almost exclusively with the Soviet military and communist dangers. Internal political problems, including Zipper's inclusion in U growth, were not discussed. ( ) emphasized that his meeting with Utility did not indicate endorsement of his organization. Rather, it was one in a series of meetings ( ) has had, and intends to have, with military figures who are likely to gain prominence again in the future, and/or from whose technical knowledge he himself might benefit.

5. There is no question that Utility and Horn made an excellent impression on ( ). He repeated twice during our conversation: "Ach, der Horn— das ist ein Kopf!" ( ) said that Horn and Utility, along with Cafila, Speidel, and some others, will undoubtedly have high positions in a future German defense setup, but stated positively that this question was not discussed. ( ) commented on the apparent respect with which Horn treated Utility. From this, almost as much as from their conversation, ( ) concluded that Utility must be an authority in his field.

6. ( ) other recent military visitors included former Colonel General Heinrich Gottfried von Vittinghoff (persona grata with the SPD for nearly a year), Cafila (several times), an admiral (whose name ( ) mentioned but I forgot), and on 10 October former Generals Hand Speidel and Hermann Foertsch, whose visit was arranged by Acting Bundestag president Carlo Schmid. ( ) hinted that he also met Halder and said that he planned to invite Guderian for a visit. (It appears that Guderian's and ( ) parents were neighbors for many years. However, ( ) never met the 10-years older general.)

7. To come back to Speidel and Foertsch: the two passed through Bonn after the Trier meeting of the "Arbeitsstab" and wanted to report the developments there to ( ). (It was not clear whether they contacted ( ) on behalf of the Arbeitsstab.) They stayed with ( ) for nearly five hours until 2. a.m. Speidel and Foertsch have made an excellent impression on the SPD leader. In addition to the usual military topics, Speidel brought up the question of the current mud-sliding among former German generals. In ( ) opinion this was not a very serious matter. As soon as the situation shapes up and formal governmental authority is established in military matters, the generals will calm down. In the meanwhile the best thing to do is to discount charges and counter-charges. (Itold ( ) that the Americans were also concerned about this situation and we regret that various former officers were being slandered with statements to the effect that they were

SEP

Horn

American or British agents. [ ] answered that he, too, has often been accused of being an agent of the British, the Americans, and the Russians -- depending on the identity of the accuser -- and he did not see why anybody should take these and similar charges seriously. He certainly did not.)

8. Among the former generals who visited him recently, [ ] said, Speidel and Horn were intellectually the most impressive. This, however, [ ] hastened to add, was no reflection on the capabilities of the others. According to [ ] Grollmann, too, belonged to the category of promising future leaders.

9. In closing the "military" side of our conversation, [ ] stated that he considered the above mentioned former generals experts in the military field, whose technical know-how and experience should be of use to Upgrowth. In addition, they seem to be genuinely pro-Western in their ideology, which [ ] maintains, is essential for possible future assignment within the framework of an Atlantic army. [ ] emphasized that his contacts with one or the other of these generals must not be viewed as political endorsement of the individual. As far as he is concerned, [ ] concluded, he will always be willing to talk with intelligent persons of whatever political persuasion, provided the individual concerned does not attempt to mislead him.