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DATE 2003-2008

INFORMATION REPORT

WORDS

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO	CS DR-X-15425
SUBJECT	Exposé of Western Intelligence	DATE DISTR	14 January 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	
DATE OF INFO.	January 1954	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	Germany, Munich	REFERENCES	

BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Qualified Intelligence analysts (B). Appraisal of Content: 3.

It is reported that Wolfgang Eßner, who was apparently kidnapped at Soviet orders in February 1953, is preparing a second series of revelations concerning his knowledge of Western intelligence operations in East Germany. He is said to be collaborating with a Russian named Kararov on a volume to be entitled "The Cold War" (Der kalte Krieg).

Field Comment: The recent campaign by the State Secretariat for State Security against the "Gehlen organization" and other intelligence agencies allegedly controlled by the Western Allies, with the attendant publicity, indicates that a drive is under way to compile such information for propaganda purposes (as distinguished from the normal secret exploitation of counter-espionage material). The publication of exposés on this subject could be preparatory to their use as an extensive diversion issue at the Four-Power Conference. The Russians may intend to hold the question of intelligence activities in East Germany in reserve for possible use as a time-consuming blind alley with favorable propaganda aspects, to be exploited when it seems tactically advantageous.