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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	West Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	(b)(3)
SUBJECT	Impaired Morale in the Blank Office	DATE DISTR.	11 March 1954	
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SOURCE: (b)(1)
(b)(3)

1. Beginning about the end of November 1953, former General Adolf Heusinger and his staff, as well as the other branches of the Blank office in Bonn, had nothing to do except technical planning for the eventual participation of German divisions in the EDC. They worked out plans for all sorts of eventualities, including a German army independent of the EDC.
2. For several months a feeling of frustration, with resulting morale problems, had become evident among the Blank office staff. Heusinger has expressed the opinion that, unless the EDC or some form of German remilitarization comes into being before long, the Blank office may well undergo a deterioration caused by political intrigue and restlessness. It is considered surprising that the officials and planners have remained as patient as they have, in view of their ambitions as Germans and as officers. A few incidents have happened, such as the Bonin-Kielmansegg-Kraske quarrel, which resulted in Kraske's resignation. If remilitarization is delayed much longer, incidents of this type are expected to recur, with the loss of the "democratic military spirit" which is said to prevail at present within the office. It is feared that radical elements may get the upper hand, or that the morale situation may be exposed by the press.
3. Heusinger is trying to find new activities to occupy his staff profitably and divert their attention from their present reasons for dissatisfaction.

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