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Equalization-of-Burdens special fund as the Federal Budget could not provide for such new requirements. Kather sharply criticized Schaeffer's proposal, holding that the Equalization-of-Burden fund was completely allotted with distribution soon to begin. Kather, who thus opposed the employment of the fund for Soviet Zone refugees, has asked, on the other hand, that these refugees enjoy the same status as enjoyed by the expelled.

Kather's Association, the Zentralverband der Vertriebenen, demanded on March 16, during its three-day Berlin conference, universal and effective measures on the part of the government to assure "systematic integration" of the refugees. The Executive Board of the ZVD stressed that Allied aid was necessary for the "European" task of integrating the refugees.

In its conference the ZVD welcomed the Federal Expellee Law's provision for an equal status for "Heimatvertriebene, Vertriebene und Flüchtlinge", but it at the same time demanded abolition of differences between refugees from the Soviet Zone and visitors not wishing to return to the Soviet Zone.

(c) BDJ

In a memorandum published on Friday, March 13, the Executive Committee of the SPD reopened its attack on the now dissolved BDJ. The memorandum attacked the BDJ and the "Technischer Dienst" as anti-democratic organizations which could be recognized as "in word and deed the spiritual legacy of Hitler".

Details of the SPD memorandum were based upon BDJ material which the Hessian Government (SPD) seized in December 1952. The memorandum repeated SPD claims that the Technischer Dienst "liquidation list" of leaders considered "unreliable" in the event of a Soviet invasion included SPD leaders. The memorandum further repeats the charges that the BDJ and "Technischer Dienst" were sponsored by the Federal Government and the Americans and that large sums of money had been contributed by such firms as Coca-Cola and by West German industries such as the Salamander Shoe factory and others. In explaining how an organization never numbering more than 2,000 could possess a treasury of 1.7 million DM, the PPP, SPD press bulletin, claimed on March 13 that the BDJ continuously received money "from U.S. sources, because it cooperated closely with the occupation-power". The SPD bulletin claims further that the BDJ received as much as 50,000 DM per month from various sources.

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The SPD is not inclined to let the question of the BDJ drop and obviously plans an attempt to make it one of the issues in the forthcoming election campaign. That such SPD exploitation of the BDJ issue may be expected was indicated in the speech of the Hessian Minister of the Interior Heinrich Zinnkann before the Hessian Landtag on March 18. Zinnkann declared that in the opinion of the Hessian Government the BDJ and "Technischer Dienst" were unconstitutional and were in their activity definitely in conflict with the Basic Law and the Criminal Code. In his speech Zinnkann declared that the SPD action in Land Hesse had effected the dissolution of the BDJ and the "Technischer Dienst" following their ban in Hesse, Lower Saxony, Hamburg, Bremen and Bavaria (Technischer Dienst only) and had forced the discontinuance of financial support from the Government and Americans.

(d) Former German Soldiers

The Europa Union under its president Eugen Kegen held a meeting at Rheindorf on-the-Rhine to discuss the future European army on March 13-15. 120 former German soldiers attended the rally, including some well-known German generals such as von Manteuffel, Blumentritt, York von Wartenburg, etc. The French General Bèthouart, the President of the Union Française Fédéraliste was amongst the speakers.

The main speakers strongly supported EDC and rejected the formation of a German national army. Kegen, well-known author of the SS Staat, asserted that even a German army included into NATO would be a potential danger to German democracy. General von Manteuffel expressed the opinion that immediately after Bundestag ratification a bill concerning activation of a volunteer force should be initiated in the Lower House.

General Bèthouart stressed the fact that national elements would still be the basis of EDC. He explained that the French Government was insisting on supplementary protocols in order to quiet French public opinion. France, the General pleaded, would have to retain some power over its forces in order to commit them in the French Union when necessary.

At the same time a secret meeting is reported to have taken place at Stuttgart and Ludwigsburg consisting of former French and Italian partisan leaders and representatives of Communist front organizations and a Soviet Zone delegation. The rally was claimed to have been assembled by the "West European Committee of Former Soldiers and War Victims". It is said that <sup>the</sup> main item on the agenda dealt with the prevention of the Contractual Agreements. Former Major Ernst Geyer of Munich, chairman of the "German-French Executive Committee of Former Combat Soldiers" with headquarters in Frankfurt, Professor Herrmann of

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