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BUND DEUTSCHER JUGEND (BDJ) BANNED IN HESSE

Translation of  
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Frankfurt A/M - 9 January 1953 - Last Friday the Hessen Minister of the Interior, Heinrich Zinnkann, banned and dissolved the BDJ in accordance with Article 9, Sec. II of the basic statute. He stated that the BDJ has acted contrary to existing laws and order. In compliance with the order given, all offices of the BDJ were sealed off, in certain cases with the help of the police. The central office of the BDJ in Frankfurt, Speicherstrasse 6, and also the regional office, Feldbergstrasse 13, were cleared out.

A statement by the Minister of the Interior reads: "Information received has proved that the BDJ, under the leadership of the former second chairman, Erhard Peters, <sup>①</sup> has raised a partisan organization with the name of 'Technical Service'. To use and employ partisans is against the peoples law. Since the general rules of the law of the people are the underlying and basic principle the BDJ has acted contrary to these principles. Further the Minister of the Interior points to the fact that <sup>②</sup> the BDJ, and its 'Technical Service' kept separate lists of 'so called collaborators' and prepared to do away with the people on these lists in case of war. The above mentioned partisan activities were brought to light last fall by the Hessen Minister, Georg August Zinn.

It was also proved that <sup>③</sup> the BDJ and the 'Technical Service' had separately tried to obtain weapons and <sup>④</sup> had formulated plans for the theft of motor vehicles, which they planned to use in case of danger. <sup>⑤</sup> A plan for the preparation of a civil war was also found."

The statemnt by Zinnkann further reads: "The BDJ has repeatedly <sup>⑥</sup> assaulted policemen and other persons in public. <sup>⑦</sup> Leaders of the BDJ have come to meetings armed. The leadership of the BDJ is made up mostly of right- and left-radicals."

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Seized Materials fill several Trucks

Acting in accordance with the order, detectives of Frankfurt made surprise raids on central offices of the BDJ in Hesse. The entire inventory was seized and brought to the police station. A record is being kept of all articles. The furniture and papers, which filled several trucks, are still being examined. In the central office, Feldbergstrasse, mostly empty record file-folders were found, which led to the assumption that the leaders of the BDJ had already prepared for the ban.

The BDJ in Mainz has a new Constitution

The national board of the BDJ met in Mainz Friday afternoon and adopted a new constitution. They intend to register with the proper authorities this Saturday. The founders re-elected unanimously the former board, including the chairman, Herbert Romer (Hamburg), and his assistant, Wolfgang Knoll (Frankfurt). Knoll stressed that the above action did not mean the board recognizes the Zinnkann ban. He said, the measures taken by the Hesse authorities were contrary to the administrative laws. The people accused have not been informed of the legal steps which can be taken. That is the reason why the BDJ has no opportunity to file counter charges. Knoll goes on, the chief of police in Frankfurt should have given a formal order to legitimate the steps which were taken. As soon as such an order has been given, the BDJ will answer to the charges set forth in the announcement by the Hesse Minister of the Interior.

The Federal Department of the Interior checks the Ban

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It was made known in Frankfurt on Friday that the Federal Department of the Interior will check the ban thoroughly and will investigate whether more facts and materials have been found, which would make it more advisable to dissolve the BDJ in all of the Federal Republic. The Dept. of the Interior declined to comment on the ban, with the explanation that this was a matter for the provinces.

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Hamburg also Considers Abandoning the BDJ.

The second mayor of Hamburg, Dr. Paul Nevermann, announces that Hamburg is also considering dissolving the BDJ which has a membership of 150 in that section.

Lower Saxony also started to negotiate as to a possible ban of the BDJ. The Dept. of the Interior announced that they have not reached a conclusion, but that they always keep in close agreement with the Hesse Dept. of the Interior.

From the information presently available, it can be concluded that at the moment no other province in the Federal Republic has any intentions of following the example of Hesse. Prof. Carlo Schmid (SPD) described these bans as concerning only the provinces, not the Republic.

Hesse's SPD welcomes the Ban.

The director of the SPD in South Hesse, explained that with this action the Hesse Dept. of the Interior has laid the groundwork for some of the political spreaders of hatred. He stated that it had been discovered that certain forces are active in the BDJ, who are working to establish a terrorist organization, exemplifying the former SA and SS. It is regrettable that the BDJ received support from the Federal Government. The ban should have been placed a long time ago. The Hesse government is to be praised that they take strong measures against the enemies of democracy.

Fritz Heine, chief press agent<sup>(1)</sup> for the SPD pointed out that the actions of the Hesse government have been made necessary because many of the leaders of the BDJ were further discriminated through the inquiries into the partisan affairs.

The positions taken by the other parties in Hesse, in regard to the ban of the BDJ, were varied. The chairman of the CDU, Dr. Wilhelm, wants to await the detailed account of the Dept. of the Interior, but stressed that the CDU would support all measures taken by the government in the defense of threatening

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dangers. The chairman of the FDP, Euler (MdB) said, the greater number of the members of the BDJ could not be suspected of having anti-democratic tendencies, or tendencies that violate international law.

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