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SECURITY INFORMATION

30 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

THROUGH : Chief, PP

SUBJECT : Investigation and Banning of the League
of German Youth (BDJ) by the Hessian
Government, Special Report EE/3-53

REFERENCE : A. SFRAN 0940 (IN 32130), 28 Jan. 1953
B. Log Item, 19 Jan. 1953

1. The previously reported pre-trial examination of the five top leaders of the League of German Youth (BDJ) will commence on 2 February 1953 before the Investigating Judge of the Hessian State Court. The German Mission believes that testimony at this closed session will be such that the judge will order an open trial. In that event, it can be expected that the defendants will claim American sponsorship for the BDJ as a strong point in their defense. This testimony at an open trial would, it is believed, identify the U.S. as the covert sponsors of the BDJ. The trial would undoubtedly result in extensive adverse publicity.

2. The German Mission believes that further publicity concerning U.S. interest in the BDJ cannot be avoided and suggests the following alternative actions to minimize the results of such publicity:

a. Hessian Minister-President Zinn, who initiated the charges against the BDJ, should be approached directly and requested to have the case dismissed. Zinn should be informed again that the U.S. has terminated its interest in the BDJ except for action which might have to be taken to defend German Nationals who organized the BDJ as an anti-Communist group at our behest.

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