

BDJ STATEMENT

20 FEB '53 - as agreed by home & field staffs.

A.

A The organization was constituted by the American ^{authorities} ~~leadership~~ to undertake military action against an enemy in the event of an armed attack against the Federal Republic of Germany. In peacetime it was authorized only to prepare for this task.

B The organization was constituted for military purposes and to function as a quasi military unit.

C Collection of information to be passed on for appropriate ^{use} ~~action~~ by allied military authorities in the event of an invasion of the West German Federal Territory ~~in the event of an~~ by an aggressor was an authorized activity of the organization. Such information was considered relevant to the security and activities of the organization under the circumstances of enemy occupation. The information could concern personalities of counter intelligence interest to the organization as well as personalities potentially capable of assisting it or deserving assistance or protection from the Allied military authorities.

D Members of the organization were recruited from various sources including the BDJ. U.S. authorities concerned with the organization did not

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wish its membership or activities involved or connected with ^(German) organizations performing normal social or political activities. Accordingly an order was issued to those members of the service who also happened to be members of the BDJ to divorce themselves completely from the BDJ. I have been informed that this was accomplished in every case except ^(possibly) that of Peters who ~~did not sever his ties until (blank date)~~ is alleged to have retained his contact with the BDJ until 1952.

E I think it appropriate here to confirm the fact that dissolution of the organization was ordered in May of 1952. The decision to dissolve the organization was made because of conviction on the part of the U.S. authorities that because of the greatly improved military position of the Western Powers the maintenance of a paramilitary organization primarily designed to assist German Nationals in defending themselves against the contingency of occupation of their country by an armed aggressor was no longer essential. Moreover the U.S. authorities believed that continued support of such an organization in West Germany was no longer consistent with the U.S. policy of recognizing the sovereign responsibilities of the Federal Republic.

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F Despite reports to the contrary, I have so far seen no evidence, as a result of the deliberation of the joint German American Commission constituted to investigate this case or otherwise, implicating the defendants involved or the organization of which they were members in any criminal or illegal acts or activities aimed against the government of the West German Federal Republic or the persons or security of its citizens. If any such evidence is uncovered this would of course be a most serious matter which should be gone into ~~more~~ thoroughly .

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