

SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

Chief, I&R

4 February 1953

NO.

2127

DATE

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. DD/P		FEB 6	6 Feb	ADH	BY HAND <u>Urgent</u>
2. C-EE					<p>The attached is merely an expression of views to add to those expressed already so that DD/P can decide on steps to be taken in BDF case. NS They differ from the views expressed by EE Division. NS</p> <p>1 to 2 DD/P asks that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion with Gen. Truscatt and Mr. Dulles</p> <p>Det 6 Feb 53</p>
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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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30 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

THROUGH : Chief, FP

SUBJECT : Investigation and Handling of the League of German Youth (LDJ) by the Russian Government, Special Report III/3-53

REFERENCE : 1. NYRAN 0940 (IN 32230), 28 Jan. 1953
2. Log Item, 19 Jan. 1953

1. The previously reported pre-trial examination of the five top leaders of the League of German Youth (LDJ) will commence on 2 February 1953 before the Investigating Judge of the Russian 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 LDJ 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 LDJ. The trial would undoubtedly result in extensive adverse publicity.

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

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

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b. If Zinn refuses to cooperate, the defendants should be instructed to admit U.S. sponsorship of the EDJ at the pre-trial hearings and claim immunity from the German Penal Code under High Commission Law 62. The judge would then be forced to issue a statement that the EDJ is a U.S. sponsored organization and that the EDJ leaders cannot be prosecuted under German Law. The German Mission believes that the publicity resulting from this action would be short-lived and would bring an end to the affair. They point out that this action would also disarm the SPD of a political weapon that it has used to harass Chancellor Adenauer's Government.

3. The German Mission therefore requests home office concurrence that the EDJ leaders be permitted to claim U.S. sponsorship of the organization at the pre-trial examination if Zinn refuses to dismiss the case.

4. The U.S. High Commission believes that the ban of the EDJ by the Russian State Government was arbitrary if not illegal but that action to suspend the ban would be politically unwise at this time. German Mission agrees.

5. We have scheduled a telecon for 31 January 1953 to discuss the alternate courses of action that may be taken.

Chief, Eastern European Division

EE/PP/G/HKFW/jh

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