

FROM  
FIELD #1

Project No. 29, Prowl

"Bund Deutscher Jugend" (League of German Youth)

Frankfurt

To support a non-partisan youth organization in both Western and Eastern Germany through which to promote our overall propaganda and warfare objectives.

A small nucleus of this group existed informally even before we got in touch with it. They had originally asked former German General Halder for political guidance, who however, advised that the Americans were the natural leaders for the world-wide struggle against Bolshevism. Thus they were looking for American contacts. We finally were brought in touch with us. We seized this best opportunity to get into a fairly large political movement "ground floor" and to promote a mass organization which would be fully controlled by us.

Case Officer is [ ] assistant case officer,  
[ ] Principal agent, Dr. Paul Lath.

FROM  
FIELD FILES

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SECURITY INFORMATION

316.50  
25.25

The group is a locally registered membership association purports to derive its income entirely from membership dues, donations and subsidies from business and industrial circles.

Highlights in the rapid development of EDJ was the campaign against the Soviet Zone general elections in August 1951 and against the Communist World Youth Festival in Berlin, August 1951. EDJ has at present, approximately 10,000 overt members in Germany and Berlin plus several hundred clandestine contacts in the Soviet Zone. The overt membership is organized into 200 local cells controlled by 8 regional officers. A special branch of the organization is charged with combating and penetrating the Communist organization "Freie Deutsche Jugend". The group publishes a daily information service (16 pages tabloid size, illustrated) in German and issues posters, leaflets, etc. as needed. It maintains a political training center where organizers, speakers, group leaders, etc., are being given thorough training and indoctrination. Local branches hold regular meetings, interfere with Communist and fellow-travelling activities, etc.

EDJ is already at present one of the most potent mechanisms for political warfare purposes; in fact it is the only mass organization through which we can carry out a wide variety of assignments by issuing direct orders. Nevertheless, its present membership of 10,000 is still small compared with 5,000,000 German youth. Especially in the Soviet Zone, considerably intensified effort is being indicated. Additional funds, expansion of the paid working force and regional political training facilities are needed.

Evidence of the results thus far achieved for this group is contained in many volumes. Several hundred news clippings every month demonstrate that EDJ is playing a major role in German political life. Virtually no other anti-Communist group is so viciously attacked by the Communists as EDJ. The attitude of the Bonn government and other factors in German political life, originally somewhat skeptical, has become increasingly positive. The Bonn government has declared EDJ to be "in the public interest" thereby exempt from certain taxes and has also instructed the police authorities not to interfere with certain of the group's irregular activities of the group (such as unauthorized picketing, painting over Communist posters).

A one-time allocation of \$100,000 from ECA funds, intended for 12 months, was completely expended per 31 January 1952. A request for a new budget is pending.

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This document is part of an integrated file. If separated from the file it must be subjected to individual systematic reviews.

15 FEBRUARY 1952

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