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SUBJECT: ICCASSOCK - DT-6 Controversy with the Kaiser Ministry

TO : Chief of Mission
Frankfurt, Germany

INFO: Chief, DYCLAVIER
Washington, D. C.

ATTN:

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Station Chief, QKFENCE
Station Chief, ZRPERIL

1. For the past three months DT-6's group (Identity 1), which has been producing dummy-edition newspapers under Kaiser Ministry auspices, has been engaged in a deadlocked controversy with Karl Germer, Political Referent of the Kaiser Ministry's Berlin office, over terms of operation; since the end of May, none of the group's regular dummy newspapers have been produced. This controversy has had no effect on DT-6's ICCASSOCK operations, which are completely separate. However, since it reflects the general development of recent Kaiser Ministry policy (especially since the advent of Germer), we are submitting herewith a record of the controversy, along with DT-6's comments on various members of the Kaiser Ministry's Berlin office. It should be noted that Identity 1 is a covert group, supported exclusively by the Kaiser Ministry until ICCASSOCK was put into operation in April, and that therefore none of the information about Identity 1 should be used in any conversations with Federal Government officials.

2. Background. The Kaiser Ministry's activity in Berlin has never consisted of undertaking or controlling operations in the DYCLAVIER sense of the word. It has been rather support and attempted guidance in approximately the same manner as the old-time operations of the Office of Public Affairs, HICOG. Some organizations have been subsidized or partially subsidized; for example DTLINEN received a straight 10,000 DM subsidy until early 1951. Large quantities of brochure, pamphlet and leaflet material have also been produced and turned over to Berlin organizations for distribution more or less as they see fit.

3. Working relationships have been in general much closer between the various operating organizations (TPEMBER, DTLINEN, BGQUART, FJSFRAY, etc.) than between any of these organizations and the Kaiser Ministry. On several occasions there have been joint public rallies sponsored by one or more of these organizations, and there has been regular working level cooperation on propaganda and distribution problems. (In the case of the DT-6 group, for example, DT-6 has obtained editorial advice and assistance from BGQUART, TPEMBER, the FJNEEDIE youth organization etc. and has turned over parts of his output to these groups for distribution.) The idea of

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coordination of propaganda and resistance is not new, but it has been promoted by the organizations themselves and almost not at all by the Kaiser Ministry.

4. The DT-6 "group" carried out its first Soviet Zone dummy edition operation in May 1950 and has been supported in these operations by the Kaiser Ministry off and on since that time. In the summer of 1951 this became a regular operation providing for the production and distribution of two dummy newspapers monthly. Throughout this period the group considered itself an independent organization fully responsible for editorial production and distribution, which it handled first through other organizations and gradually more and more through its own regular distribution personnel. No control or guidance was in reality exercised by the Kaiser Ministry.

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5. Dr. Tuerck. Dr. Tuerck, the chief Kaiser Ministry representative in Berlin, was the direct contact for DT-6. Dr. Tuerck apparently took little substantive interest in the project and was concerned primarily with accounting matters. The only serious clash was in early 1950 over the Frier Bauer dummy edition which DT-6 had been producing, largely in cooperation with TPEMBER both for editorial material and for distribution. This edition was stopped by Tuerck and turned over to the Kaiser Ministry sponsored Bauernverband, apparently primarily because Tuerck felt that it should be doing something to justify its existence. (Bauernverband, incidently, did not produce another newspaper until this month, and then only in cooperation with the DT-6 group.)

6. Karl Germer. Karl Germer was assigned to the Kaiser Ministry office in May 1952, as political referent. Whether because of a basic change in Kaiser Ministry policy or Germer's personality, or both, the Kaiser Ministry's approach to Berlin based resistance operations shifted radically after the arrival of Germer. It became clear very quickly that Germer intended to make the Kaiser Ministry, and himself as its representative, the coordinator and guiding spirit of such activities. A curatorium consisting of representatives of the Kaiser Ministry, the larger parties and the resistance organizations was proposed (although never carried out) for coordination of resistance activities and Germer soon made it clear that he considered problems of operational security and policy coordination, even of independent organizations such as DTLINEN, to be fully within the Kaiser Ministry's field of competence.

7. Germer's first and strongest efforts were directed against DT-6 and amounted to an attempt to establish tight control over a project which, although Kaiser Ministry sponsored, had always operated with almost full independence. The regular DT-6 dummy newspaper was stopped by Germer at the end of May and since that time for a variety of reasons production has not been resumed. The major crisis was caused by Germer's demand that DT-6 turn in lists of all his distributors, ostensibly for their own future protection (as evidence, in the Kaiser Ministry's files, that they had been engaged in resistance work); DT-6, supported by his own distribution chief and the leaders of other groups used by him, has steadfastly refused this demand.

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8. Although objective questions were at first at issue (the decision whether or not to carry out distribution operations immediately prior to the institution of the new Soviet Zone controls on June 1st, the choice of distribution channels, etc.), the controversy soon became a struggle for control on the part of Germer and for operational independence on the part of the DT-6 group. Germer on several occasions attempted to discredit the group with such organizations as TPEMBER, BOQUART, and the FJNEEDLE youth organization, with whom the DT-6 group had been working, attempts which were in most cases merely reported back to DT-6. On July 16th a formal complaint was submitted by the group to State Secretary Thedieck requesting intervention of higher authorities in the dispute; a series of fifty memorandums of conversations during the period of the controversy were also submitted (a photo copy of the letter to Thedieck with the list of the fifty attachments is forwarded as attachment A). At the same time a formal complaint was submitted to the Bundeshaus, Berlin, dealing with the dispute with Germer over the distribution of a one-time brochure produced by the group in July (photo copy forwarded as attachment B).

9. No decision has yet been made by the Kaiser Ministry on the complaint of the DT-6 group or on the future of its operations. None of its regular publications has been produced since May. A one-time dummy of an ~~ENT~~ brochure, referred to in paragraph 8 above, was produced under Germer's supervision in July. At the beginning of August a dummy edition of Bauern Echo was produced by the Bauernverband and the DT-6 group was assigned the job of re-editing and distribution. For this they were under the supervision of Dr. Baumann, the Kaiser Ministry Economic Referent. There is no indication whether or not this will become a regular production.

10. Personalities. It must be admitted that DT-6 has the very strong prejudice of the operating level vis a vis the government officials with whom he has been dealing; however his comments on the various people with whom he has been in contact indicate the types which are encountered in the Kaiser Ministry and whose personalities can make a profound difference in the relationships with the operating organizations, DICLAVIER sponsored or otherwise.

11. Dr. Tuerck according to DT-6 is a bureaucrat of the worst type, concerned primarily with asserting his official importance and unadaptable to the fluid type of operations for which the Kaiser Ministry should be responsible. Even within the Bundeshaus there was considerable opposition to and lack of respect for Dr. Tuerck which is undoubtedly partly responsible for his recent removal.

B. Germer in contrast to Tuerck is reported, not only by DT-6 but also by all other sources, to be a person of considerable initiative and interest in the substantive operations of the Ministry. He appears to be a misplaced operational type, over eager to have his finger on everything which is being carried out. This inevitably antagonizes the operating organizations who naturally consider themselves more qualified to handle operational matters; this appears to be the basic cause for the extreme bitterness between Germer and DT-6. As an example: Germer was appointed to his present job only a short time

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before the announcement of the new Soviet Zone controls which were to take effect on June 1st; Germer decided that no Kaiser Ministry sponsored distribution would take place until the new situation could be judged, although all operating groups were at that time making a special effort to get as much material as possible transported into the Zone before June 1st in case the new controls should really reduce distribution capabilities effectively. Regardless of the rightness or wrongness of Germer's decision, his arbitrariness and ignoring of the opinion of the distribution groups strongly alienated the people involved - in this case especially DT-6 and BGQUART. (DT-6's dummy Tribune, which was to be distributed in large part by BGQUART, was stopped in the middle of production.)

C. Baumann is according to DT-6 a man of considerably greater capabilities and understanding of his field than Dr. Tuerck, but on the other hand basically a functionary without great initiative. Within the framework of his functions he has been helpful and cooperative with the DT-6 group and understanding of the problems both of operations and of the relationship with the Ministry.

11. There appear to have been three separate factors involved in the DT-6 controversy, which are paralleled to some extent in the Kaiser Ministry's relationships with other organizations and which are likely to continue.

A. The major factor is of course the Kaiser Ministry's attempt to exert control and influence over political warfare and resistance activities. This is in contrast to previous policy in Berlin as personified by Dr. Tuerck; on the other hand its impact was intensified by the personality of Germer.

B. There is a natural tendency to conflict between working level operational groups and Kaiser Ministry officials when they regard as bureaucrats of varying degrees of competency. Especially in Berlin the working people tend to cooperate closely, so that there has been and probably will continue to be a more natural policy and operational coordination among the groups themselves than will ever be asserted by the Kaiser Ministry.

C. Conflicts and personality differences within the Kaiser Ministry itself have had a considerable influence on relationships with the organizations. As a result of the incompetence of Dr. Tuerck these relationships often took the form of intrigue rather than open dispute. The choice of his successor will undoubtedly play a strong part in future relationships between the Kaiser Ministry and DYGLAVIER sponsored organizations.

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Distribution:

3-FBNIGHT, with 1 copy ea. encl. usc and 3 copies of identity.
 3-DYGLAVIER, " 3 copies of identity usc., 1-DEFENCE, with iden. usc.,
 1-ZRPERIL, " 1 copy ea. encl. usc and iden usc.