

SECRET

17 January 1956

TO: EE/G/(West) -- [ ]

VIA: Chief, EE/G/C<sup>AS</sup>

FR [ ]

SJ: Target: Gerhard von Mende, "Amt fuer Heimatslose Auslaender"

1. In accordance with my today's conversation with you and [ ] and as a result of your timely transmittal to us of the attached QACTIVE item on von Mende's conversation with Isaac Patch, Jr., I submit herewith, as a basis for discussion, a brief aide memoir on this target.
2. Please keep in mind, with reference to the lacunas, that I have never done a full-scale name-check, etc., on this character, but simply processed material that accrued in the course of the regular paper flow across my desk, and that an exhaustive study of von Mende would be quite a job.
3. I attach hereto a folder [ ] which was in the dead files of Registry, restricted to SR. which a girl in SR cleared for me to read. About a year ago [ ] and I once discussed the case with [ ] when the SR interest in emigre and West-Asiatic types was still paramount, and Ed said he had known von Mende as CAPRIFORM and that he would have a 201 consolidated on him and brought up to date. Apparently, however, SR thought better of it.
4. I was "stalking" von Mende with the idea of having his place and his files in Buesseldorf ransacked and possibly photographed, but the latest information from you seems to me to indicate that we would do better to try to recruit him.

1 Att: TARGET-folder

1 Enclosure: [ ] -- This is charged to me, please guard it carefully!

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

17 January 1956

TARGET SUMMARY

IDENTITY:

Gerhard von MENDE, born 25 December 1904, Riga, Latvia, Chief of the "Amt fuer Heimatlose Auslaender", Cecilienallee 52, Duesseldorf, Germany. He is "CAPRIFORM".

BIOGRAPHY:

In 1924 von MENDE acquired German citizenship. 1927-9: seminar-student in "Orientalistik", University of Berlin; diploma East European History and Law — 1930: Sorbonne, diploma ~~diploma~~ in Turkish; returned to University of Berlin — 1933 Ph.D Breslau; theme: "Studien ueber die Kolonisation der Sowjetunion".

1934-7: advisor for Kulturpolitik in the German Academic Exchange Service, Berlin — 1935-7: also advisor in the Foreign Section of the Education Ministry and also instructor in various courses on Soviet Russia. — 1939: Ausserordentlicher Professor (foreign affairs) at Berlin University — 1942-3 Full professorship — 1941 Assigned to "Ostministerium" (Rosenberg). Although he is often mentioned in Thorwald's book: "Wen Sie Verdäben Wollen", which is the fullest and best account of the Vlassov Era of which I am aware, his precise role during the war is not clear. He is alleged to have had contacts in the RSHA, to have been deeply involved in espionage rather than political/psychological warfare, etc., but one thing appears certain: he was a protagonist of the basic idea of the Vlassov movement, namely that the Communists can be defeated and discredited only with the active assistance of the subject peoples. That idea was not only anathema to the Communists, but also to the Nazis. In 1945 von MENDE became a U. S. PoW and had some pretty frustrating experiences.

1946: Appears to have been at large and employed by the University of Hamburg. Became a British agent.  
1947: Lived clandestinely in Munich area under the alias Georges METRIVELLI, partly supported by his Eurasian friends in the area. 1949: Worked for the British IS at Brackenvede/Bielefeld, where he was unhappy because of a lack of understanding by his British case officers, the futureless nature of his assignments, and because the British stole his library. 1949: Was approached by the Munich Base, after a project had been written and approved, a clearance obtained, and agreed to work for us. He was then in a period of disillusionment and ripe for recruitment. The case was suddenly dropped at Munich because von MENDE employed a methodical approach to the problem and Munich was immersed in a program of helter-skelter, plannless recruitment of "agents". On 2 August 1949, von MENDE was told by our representative that his

"proposals" (we had actually made the proposals) might be taken up if and when personnel became available to negotiate with him. 1949-51 von MENDE apparently continued to work for the BIS while angling for German Government employment. 1951: The effort to attain German employment bore fruit, and the establishment now housed at 52 Cecilienallee, Duesseldorf, came into being. Von MENDE rose rapidly to a prominent position and clearly had considerable authority and money at his disposal. He became the main backbone of the German-Emigree collaboration and continued to sponsor the basic VLASSOV idea, notably through the ABW. 1955: Indications accumulated that, with the rapprochement between HALLSTEIN/ADENAUER and the new masters of the USSR, a down-turn has come in the fortunes of von MENDE, since the Communists abhor the idea he represents and appear to be putting pressure on HALLSTEIN and the Bundesrepublik to suppress the whole scheme. The latest QACTIVE material attached hereto indicates pretty conclusively that von MENDE feels he is being pushed into a corner again.

POTENTIAL  
PRODUCTION

Subject combines:

- a) A phenomenal knowledge of Eurasians and Eurasia ,
- b) With the ability to attract and lead a large following (in being) among the Eurasians ,
- c) A large acquaintanceship and influence among many levels of German officialdom.

FILES: It seems reasonable to assume that von MENDE has, probably at the Cecilienallee, a great collection of documentary "inside" information on the emigration, both Eurasian and Baltic, as well as Balkan, which is worth a great deal. Access to these files, either through von MENDE, or perhaps by clandestine photography, would in itself be worth a great deal of trouble.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC POLICY: Although the officials of the Republic continue to make vehement statements that never will they abandon their loyalty to the West, there are nevertheless very powerful forces at work to establish a rapprochement -- at least -- between the Republic and the USSR, ~~perhaps~~ perhaps on the Bismarck line. The fortunes of von MENDE in themselves will shed much light on the real intentions of the powers that be in the Bundesrepublik. If a steady flow of reporting by him on the daily developments regarding his own effort -- particularly reports reflecting the moves and maneuvers

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of those interested in suppressing VLASSOVISM-- can be established, great light should be shed on <sup>the</sup> main trend. In time, especially if crowded into a corner by OBERLAENDER and kindred spirits, von MENDE might be induced to widen the scope of his reporting to include many other related phenomena in Western Germany.

OTHER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS: Von MENDE has close relations with the BfV and has almost certainly also established working relations with the BKA (SG), the Bavarian LfV, the Ostbureaus of the SPD, etc., on whom he may perhaps be able (and be induced) to furnish revealing information.

DATA ON EURASIA AND THE EMIGRATION: Von MENDE has access to the University circles in Germany dealing with the Eurasian problem. These circles can supply esoteric information in quantity, prepare studies, etc. Von MENDE can supply accurate evaluations of individual emigres.

CE INTEREST: The Russian Communists have demonstrated time and again their great fear of the VLASSOV idea. They are certainly aware of von MENDE's powerful sponsorship of that idea, so that, ipso facto, he is an important RIS target. From our vantage point, and on the basis of a close study, we may be able to pin-point those persons with whom he is in contact who present the likeliest avenues of approach by the RIS. *NOTE: SECRETIA*

FP POTENTIAL: Von MENDE has demonstrated that he has great influence among the emigration and among at least some circles of the Federal Republic's officialdom. Presumably, if handled right, and if the situation permits, he can be used to influence policy.

AVENUES OF APPROACH

It would be inadvisable to out in any third party to establish contact. Original contact was made by [redacted] who were introduced by "[redacted]". The case officers mentioned are no longer available. It is accordingly recommended that subject be approached directly by a U. S. Case Officer, ~~whom we have identified~~ perhaps one who can pass himself off as interested in some special field of Eurasian study, such as a Turkestan dialect, or the like. Alternatively, if possible, Isaac Patch, Jr., who has contact with the subject, can introduce another case officer. Contact can also be established under a University cover. However it is done, the greatest care must be taken to leave non-Americans out of the contact arrangement.

MEANS OF  
CONTROL  
AND  
MANAGEMENT

The handling of von MENDE as an "agent" would be disastrous. He can be dealt with only as a leader in the free world whose integrity is unquestioned and whose support and advice is sought in a common cause. Von MENDE, himself originally an expropriated emigre whose father was slain by the Communists, appears to be fundamentally loyal to the idea of a "Grossraum Europa" under German leadership as opposed to domination, and to be a devoted protagonist of the idea of a liberation-movement among the nationalities subjected by the Communists -- sponsored by the West. To be sure, von MENDE is maintaining associations with the BIS and numerous German groups, including ZIPPER, but he is still very much in need of support from the only great power which can unselfishly support and espouse the idea of the liberation of the enslaved peoples by helping them to help themselves. If, as seems probable, von MENDE will slowly be boxed in by the officials of the Bundesrepublik and kept in being only as a kind of "big stick" to use in negotiations with the USSR, he will again be as frustrated as he was during World War II. In time, if his confidence is won, he can be lead to provide us the types of information outlined above -- especially if his "voice crying in the wilderness" complex is not lost sight of. It seems to me to boil down to a question of getting the right man to work with him: someone who can speak his language, is sympathetic -- or at least not hostile to -- von MENDE's ideas and whose stature and representational capacity is such that von MENDE will be impressed. I think at the moment of such a man as [ ] in this connection.

IMMEDIATE  
PROPOSALS

a) That it be agreed with SR and IO that we are the office of primary interest; b) That a basic project and necessary clearance be initiated; c) That full traces on von MENDE and the persons affiliated with him (SEE ATTACHMENT A) be run so that the undertaking can be delineated in all its details before the actual recruiting pitch is made.

FOR DATA ON PERSONS WITH WHOM VON MENDE AFFILIATED, SEE ATTACHMENT A

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\* NOTE: The German Military Documents  
CENTER had many documents (about 1000)  
on VLASSOV AND THE ST MINISTERIUM...

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
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IMPORTANT PERSONS WITH WHOM VON MENDE  
MAINTAINS OPERATIONAL RELATIONS

A) Colleagues: Walter SCHENK, aka SCHMIDT (Deputy). Former SD leader in Lemberg who was finally supported by members of the AEW, while he worked in the office of the "ABN Korrespondenz" as German Editor.

Walter CONRADI. Specialist in Baltic Questions. Visited CID, Munich on 23 November 1954.

Bruno KAUSCHEN. Probably von MENDE's manager of the "Hilfswerk der Ehemaligen Freiwilligenberbände," a very important instrument for keeping track of the former II volunteer units of subject peoples serving with the German Armed Forces in World War II.

Hans KOCH of the Ost Europa Institut. May be a subordinate of von MENDE.

fnu STAMATE.

Dr. Kurt von MAYDELL. (May actually work for Otto BRAEUTIGAM as a counsellor on Satellites in the Foreign Office of the Bundesrepublik.)

B) Others:

[ In July 1955 SR/3/ (W3) Reported that ] stated he had done a study for von MENDE and that he had received great compliments and money for it. 6 Jan 1956 CABLE reports MUNICH advocating long imprisonment for [ ] as a Communist agent: but von MENDE again supporting [ ] and difficulties in prosecution being made by the BfV (CARPETMAKER)..... ]

APOSTOL, Emil. Vice-President Verband der Exilstudenten, Berlin/Charlottenburg. Has contacts in Soviet zone and with [ ] JUARG, thought to be able to contact the "Soviet Zone German who helped Alfred BARTH (now resident Duesseldorf) escape".....

fmn VON BERG, German representative to Estonians and Balts.

dr. Otto BRAEUTIGAM, Chief of the Eastern Division of AA. Does not want to give official recognition to any refugee organization as a representative

of the country of origin, as complicating relations with the USSR.....Involved in complex negotiations regarding the blocked accounts (some up to DMW 300,000) belonging to these nationals....

C } Close associates in the propaganda field from time to time.....

Dr. Karl GRAMMER. Chief of the Verband der Landmannschaften in Bonn.

Mihai FARCASEANU. Head of the League of Free Rumanians friend of Ion Gheorghe with lots of good contacts.

Vasili GLASKOV. Was close enough to von MENDE to be invited to his office in Duesseldorf. He is currently under CISD telephone surveillance.

Adam GRUENBAUM: Worked for ZIPPER, dropped in 1950, following dropping of Estonian Group by ZIPPER — perhaps in deference to von MENDE???

Hans HARTL. Had an official mission from German to Washington last year; vast acquaintanceship among the emigration.

Adolf IDOL. Informal contact with Theo OBERLAENDER; target for RIS

E. von MASSOW. President of German/Bulgarian Society.

Veli KAJUM KHAN. Turkestan National Unity Committee. HQ Duesseldorf. Supplied von MENDE with information about the \$600 Rusi NASAR got from (CIA) via U S Embassy, Jidda, Channels.

Joseph NEMECEK. Allegedly has knowledge of the German operations against the CSR.

Herwart SCHEINER. Was active in the Rumanian emigree movement, suffered reverses. Now an official in Rhein-Pfalz.

Dr. Fritz VALJEVEC. He is under FOB/Zipper CIS coverage.

Mr. Axel de VRIES. The U. S. State Department is delivering material to him ~~for use~~ to use in doing a study on the Germans who are strong anti-Communists for the German Foreign Office...

NOTE: There are literally hundreds of others of equal importance: The purpose of the foregoing list is only to serve as a sample.

C) Some of the Associations and Groups in which von MENDE has influence:

Anti-Bolshevist Bloc of Nations. Now angling to transfer main office to Madrid, in fear of West-German interference with its basic aim of liberating compatriots by force. They are in trouble in France. Michael ALSHIRAYA Dimitri WALTSCHEV and Nicholas NAKASHIDZE are particularly close personal friends of v. MENDE in this group. They publish "ABE Korrespondenz."

Baltic Society in Germany. Covers Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonians, well-financed and effective.

"Bruecke zum Westen". Present status not known. Was edited by Herwart SCHEINER and got material from Hans HARTL. Many monarchists appear to have had a hand in it.

Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz: GERKEN of the BfV has recruited von MENDE to supply him with information on the emigration in Germany.

"European Friendship Circles". Engineered by Hans KOCH and Walter von SCHENK. May supplant or annex the idea of "East European Movement for a United Europe."

German-Estonian Association. Effective group.

"Hilfswerk der Ehemaligen Freiwilligenverbände". Bruno KAUSCHEN in leading figure. Covers the former units of subject peoples that fought against the Communists with the Germans.

"Institut fuer Gegenwartforschung". Cover for the Blank Office in Munich, employing Ivan BROSOVIC.

Rumanian-German Landmannschaft Organizations. Sathmar Swabians and many others.

UARG (Rumanian Organization in Germany, Assm) Graefin FINCKENSTEIN and other BRE figures also ~~play~~ play a role. Bundesminister Walter von KRAFT, BRAEUTIGAM and other big shots attended meetings.

NOTE: These are again only a few of the organizations with which MENDE has contacts. SECRET

/// End of ATTACHMENT A