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 SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2001 2008

SOURCE Usually well informed observer.

- In a private conversation, Dr. Ernst Achenbach, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the FDP, explained his reasons for assuming the legal defense of former Naumann, arrested ring leader of the so-called Naumann circle.
- Achenbach is determined to make a legal "cause celebre" of this case. He feels that he is on good legal grounds and that he can present an argument which will embarrass the British High Commissioner. Achenbach revealed that he will be visited shortly by several London barristers (he refused to divulge their names) who will assist him in the case, and if necessary, fight the case in the British Military Government courts.
- Achenbach showed no sign of wanting to give up his defense of Naumann which has been criticized within the executive committee of the FDP and which may cost him his chairmanship of the foreign affairs committee. It is fairly obvious that Achenbach sees in his defense a chance to make a political name for himself in Western Germany.
- An interesting sidelight on the Naumann affair was furnished by the German Trade Union. The DGB press office had planned a big blast against the Naumann circle and other neo-Nazis. Leaflets and placards had been printed and were to be released on 30 January, the anniversary of Hitler's accession to power in January 1933. In the meantime, news of the scheduled campaign reached the SPD headquarters in Bonn. Reportedly Fritz Reine called up DGB headquarters and ordered the whole plan cancelled. ^{1/} It had become apparent to the SPD, if not to the DGB leadership, that any organization supporting the British arrest of the ex-Nazis was in danger of being considered "anti-German".

^{1/} FIELD COMMENT. The project was not altogether cancelled. A 15-page memorandum was issued, but it was a toned-down version of the original. The public campaign (leaflets, etc.) was called off.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
 (2)(A) Privacy
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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