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## SYNOPSIS OR BRIEF REPORT:

1. The "Bund der Freiheitlichen Deutschen in der Schweiz" has its headquarters in Basel. The membership totals around 400, of which 90 members are reported to be in Basel. The majority of the members are Communists. The non-Communist members are extreme left-wing and sympathetic to Communism. The official organ of the BFDS is "Wort und Weg" of which not more than one or two issues have appeared as yet. The four "anti-Fascist" German aid organizations which, to all intents and purposes, are under the auspices of the BFDS are:
2.
    - a. "Nachbarschaftshilfe", Basel
    - b. "Neuer Deutscher Hilfsverein", Bern
    - c. "Schweizerisch-Deutsches Hilfskomitee", Davos
    - d. "Deutsches Hilfskomitee in der Schweiz", Zürich
  3. The organization has its headquarters at Riehentostrasse 7, Kellinbasel, Basel. The president is Prof. Dr. Adolf GRABOWSKY whose home is at Dürnmattweg 1, Arlesheim/Basel. The secretary is Georg BIHR, chemistry student in Basel. BIHR is reported to have been chosen for this position as a "sop" to the Swiss Fremdenpolizei<sup>ZE</sup> which controls the movements and actions of foreigners in Switzerland. BIHR has the reputation of being a devout Catholic; however, this has not prevented him from being an ardent Leftist.
  4. The Central Committee of BFDS is composed of the following:
  5. von KIRSCHBAUM, Charlotte (Fr.): At present in Benn, Germany. Was in Basel last year. Fanatical Communist and plays leading role in BFDS.

JUNG, Karl

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*ed* WUERZBURGER, Karl (Dr.)

ZIMMERMANN, Otto: Was secretary before BIHR.

*ed* RUFF, Paul: Residence is Efringerstr. 18, Basel. German, born in Switzerland. Ca. 40/42 years. RUFF was ordered expelled from Switzerland last year because he had been a member of the Nazi Party. The "Partei der Arbeit" interceded on his behalf by carrying on a slander campaign against the president of the Basel City Police, BRECHBUEHL. BRECHBUEHL invited a delegation from the PdA to come to his office and see the file on RUFF. In this file were two documents signed by RUFF: one a declaration that RUFF had belonged to the German Communist Party but had left it; the other, an admission that he had denounced someone to the German Consulate-General in Basel. When the PdA asked RUFF for an explanation, he declared that he had "acted on orders from above" in leaving the German Communist Party for the Nazi Party. (Source reports that RUFF has spent time in Russia and is highly suspect.) The PdA did not object to RUFF's joining the Nazis but were very annoyed at his defection from Communist ranks. Because of this they expelled him from the PdA and demanded his expulsion from the BFDS. December 1946 RUFF appealed the expulsion order and the decision is still pending. Both the PdA and the BFDS are awaiting that decision before again taking up his case.

6. The representatives of the BFDS in the rest of Switzerland are:

ENGELBRECHT, Georg: Resident at Tannenweg 11, Bern.  
Cantons of Bern and Solothurn.

ANSORGE, Karl: Residence at Aemtlerstrasse 15, Zürich.  
Zürich and East Switzerland.

*ed* FUCHS, Gerhard: Residence at Haus Grepper, Davos-Platz.  
Canton of Grison.

\* SCHMID, Wilhelm: Residence at Lugano-Bré.  
Canton of Ticino.

HENNINGER, Manfred: Residence at Posta Losone, Ticino.  
Also Canton of Ticino.

DANIELS, Karl: Residence at Ebikon/Lucerne.  
Inner Switzerland.

BRAEUNIG, Otto: Residence at Place des Eaux-Vives 13,  
Geneva.  
French Switzerland.

SCHWERIN, Alfred: Residence at Lindenhofstr. 14, Basel.  
Cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Land and  
Aargau.

7. Alfred SCHWERIN is ca. 50/55 years old, formerly a merchant in Pirmasens, Palatinate. Ardent Communist who has spent some time in Dachau. He was in Russia in 1938.

8. The four aid-to-Germany organizations which are under the auspices of the BFDS are run by the following people:

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Frau Prof. H. BAUMGARTEN is the president and Martin CORDES the secretary of the "Nachbarschaftshilfe" in Basel. CORDES was sent to the BFDS in Basel as a representative of the "Bekennende Kirche", Germany, in connection with the organization of the "Nachbarschaftshilfe". He appeared last year and announced that he was not interested in politics and therefore could not publicly join the BFDS (which is primarily a political organization). However, CORDES never misses an opportunity to make a public speech, always expressing extreme left-wing views. He is ca. 35 years and speaks with a pronounced North German accent.

9. Georg ENGELBRECHT runs the "Neuer Deutscher Hilfsverein" and is also on the central committee and the Bern representative of the BFDS.

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10. Schwester Paula WEIDIG is president and Walter SCHMIDT *index* secretary of the "Schweizerisch-deutsches Hilfskomitee" in Davos. Both live in Davos. They are not members of the BFDS but are used because of their excellent connections. The actual leadership of the "Schweizerische-deutsches Hilfskomitee" is in the hands of Gerhard FUCHS and Walter SCHMIDT, FUCHS being the BFDS representative in the Canton of Grison. Schwester WEIDIG, FUCHS and SCHMIDT all live in Davos-Platz.

11. "Deutsches Hilfskomitee in der Schweiz" has O. STAEHELIN *index* as president. His residence is Sántisstrasse 2, Zürich.

12. A quarrel within the ranks of the BFDS has been rumored. It is between the members who have settled permanently in Switzerland and those here on a temporary basis. The resident members are accused of not showing a true Communist attitude because they obey the regulations of the Swiss authorities in order to remain in Switzerland. Very few of the members of BFDS show any enthusiasm about returning to Germany. Most of them want to migrate to the Western Hemisphere. One member explained this by saying that when the Allies leave Germany the BFDS members can expect to be put in jail or executed by the reactionary elements in that country. Even with this fear in mind, none of them seem to want to go to the Russian Zone of Germany.

13. Following is a list of some of the members of BFDS who are not in Switzerland:

BREDEL, Willi: Born in Hamburg. Writer. His book "Verwandte und Bekannte" was published in Moscow in 1943. Last heard of in Rostock where the University conferred an honorary title on him.

BRECHT, Bertolt: Satirical poet and playwright. In Berlin recently.

LUCKNER, Gertrud (Frl. Dr.): Visited Switzerland from Germany in September 1946. Made speech at BFDS meeting in connection with Aid for Germany. Believed to have

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returned to Germany.

MEUTER, Paul: Formerly a member of the "Freies Deutschland" organization in Switzerland. Now in Solingen, North Rhine, Germany.

REICHE, Erwin (Dr.): Formerly head of the Bern section of the BFDS. Now in Berlin as reporter on theater, music in a "Ministerium der Wilhelmstrasse".

SCHWARZ, Freimut: Last reported in London.

ZIMMERING, Max: Last reported in London.