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1. On 4 and 5 October 1952 in Bonn, Lt. General a. D. Adolf Heusinger, appraising the problem of remilitarization, Germany's role in the defense of Europe, and other related problems, made some significant remarks which may be a reflection of the opinions and the attitude of many senior German military planners, former officers, and government officials. The more important points are summarized below.

EDC Negotiations in Paris

2. Heusinger returned from Paris on 3 October 1952 after having spent several days in conference with General Speidel, General Gruenther, and Marshal Juin. He was generally pleased with the overt attitude of Gruenther and Juin and felt that a momentous milestone had finally been reached during his conversations. Heusinger and Speidel were given what they consider a complete briefing on EDC/NATO defense planning based not only upon present strength but also upon future plans which allow for increasing strengths after the original emergence of German contingents, first with six divisions, and then finally with a total contribution of twelve divisions. These plans, according to Heusinger, are satisfactory and acceptable to the Germans. He has the impression that Western Germany has now been taken in as a full partner and that this will do much to dispel the propaganda of opposition elements who have maintained that Germany would never enjoy equal rights with other member contingents of EDC and NATO. Heusinger intended to brief Chancellor Adenauer fully on these new developments sometime during the week of 6 October.

3. The various German planning staffs in Paris are plodding along quite slowly but methodically. [] the French military working level of EDC has the best rapprochement with the Germans who reach a quicker understanding with their traditional Gallic enemy than with the Italians, Belgians and others.

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4. General Gruenther has urged General Heusinger henceforth to spend more time in Paris discussing defense tactics and strategy. In compliance with this request, he planned to return to Paris on 8 October. However, an important unresolved issue which cannot be handled in Paris is the problem of German rearmament and reequipment. General Ridgeway was quoted as saying that these matters should be negotiated in Germany through General Handy and Ambassador Draper, and General Heusinger, already disturbed about the slow progress of German remilitarization, is reported to be most anxious to begin discussions with the proper

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5. [redacted] Heusinger now states that the functions of the "Zonenbefehlshaber" (Senior Commander, West German Contingents) will be under the jurisdiction of EDC immediately after ratification of the treaties when conscription begins. The pertinent point, from Heusinger's point of view, is whether EDC will be an effective organ at the time of ratification to supervise and control Germany's activities properly during the early period of military build-up.

Rumors of French Opposition to EDC.

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6. Of late there have been many rumors of a French change of heart towards the concept of a unified international European defense effort. [redacted]

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[redacted] a rumor is circulating in Bonn that French General Billotte, De Gaulle's party deputy, visited General Schlon in Munich during the week-end of 4-5 October to discuss the creation of national armies, rather than the presently conceived EDC contingents, which would work together for the defense of Europe under the cohesive influence of a grand coalition. Billotte was accompanied by Adalbert Weinstein, a member of the editorial staff of the Frankfurter Allgemeine.* On Heusinger's last trip to Paris he heard that Billotte may emerge as the next French foreign minister. The fact that Billotte is an avowed opponent of EDC is well known and to this Heusinger added his suspicion that Billotte is now busily engaged in planning alternatives to EDC.

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The US and Yugoslavia.

7. In considering the developing Yugoslavian situation with its gradual reorientation to the West, Heusinger sees it as the one great hope for the exacerbation of future relations between the satellite states and the USSR which might, with luck, lead to a complete rupture. He feels that of all the satellites, Bulgaria, subject to continuous pressure from Yugoslavia on one side and Turkey and Greece on the other, is the most vulnerable. If the satellite states have any chance to free themselves from the Soviet yoke within the foreseeable future, he believes, such a movement for freedom probably would begin in Bulgaria and be followed shortly thereafter by the other Balkan states.

Imminence of War.



8. On the omnipresent subject of imminence of war, Heusinger stated that neither the US nor the Soviets, as the two great world powers, can successfully win a war under the present circumstances; furthermore, neither side can successfully conclude a land or air war which would bring total defeat to the other. This situation will continue for an indefinite period of time unless a completely revolutionary weapon or a new means of warfare is found. In time, through the death of the present Soviet and satellite leaders and the attrition of ideological passions, there may eventually develop a sincere effort by successors to alleviate world tension which has been created by the passionate struggle for world power and to resort to a policy of peaceful co-existence.

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* [redacted] Comment: This rumor is more or less confirmed by an article which Weinstein wrote in the 15 October 1952 edition of the Frankfurter Allgemeine.

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