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JICA 4189

10 December 1947

MEMORANDUM TO Captain Benquet H. Wey, USN, Joint Intelligence Objective  
Agency, Room 2D267, Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: Prof. (Dr.) Walther Gerlach

1. I have been approached by a British liaison officer for comment on a request by Prof. Gerlach to move from the British to the U. S. Zone of Germany. I have stated that while I had no objection to Gerlach's return to Munich I could not speak for the United States Government. I further suggested that the subject be handled by authorities in the British Zone of Germany with the corresponding U. S. officials in the American Zone.

2. I pass the above to you for your information, together with the following remarks regarding Gerlach of which we are aware.

a. He was deputy for nuclear physics directly responsible to Hermann Goering in the latter days of the war and when the cases of the top-ranking German nuclear physicists were finally disposed of some time after the capitulation of Germany, he was settled at the University of Bonn in the British Zone.

b. It is understood that Gerlach has never been happy at Bonn and has asked permission to go to Munich, his old home, permanently. He used to be professor of physics at the University of Munich.

c. Technically, Gerlach is considered a competent scientist by both U. S. and British consultants - one of the better men among the German personnel.

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SBS-7 Memorandum: Central Intell. Agency

L. E. SEEMAN

Approved for Release  
Date Jan 94

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