

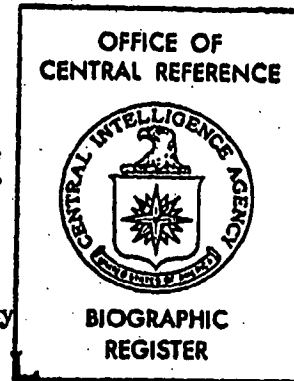
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DATE 2008

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Gustav-Adolf SONNENHOL

Chief, Division I (Financial and Economic
Questions of Development Aid), Federal
Ministry for Economic Cooperation



Ministerialdirektor Gustav-Adolf Sonnenhol, a member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), was appointed head of Division I (Financial and Economic Questions of Development Aid) of the newly-created Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation in April 1962. He returned to Bonn from Paris, where he had served about four years as deputy head of the West German delegation to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, formerly the Organization for European Economic Cooperation -- OEEC).

Born: 25 January 1912 in Hottenbruch near Luedenscheid, Sonnenhol displayed an early affinity toward the National Socialist movement. While attending the Gymnasium in Luedenscheid, he was active in organizing the school's branch of the National Socialist Pupils' League and also served as an officer in the Hitler Youth. Continuing his studies at a university, he joined the SA in 1930 and the NSDAP in 1931, and acted as training speaker for the Party and the National Socialist Students' League (NSDStB) as well as Director of the Foreign Division of the NSDStB. He received his doctorate in law in 1935 and was employed as a court official in Cologne until 1939, when he joined the SS. Appointed liaison officer between the Security Service (SD) of the SS and the Foreign Office in June 1939, he was assigned to Paris in July 1940 and promoted to SS Obersturmfuehrer (first lieutenant) in April 1941. He remained in Paris until January 1942 and was reportedly responsible for forming a French section of the SD. After serving briefly in Casablanca during January 1942, he was transferred to Tangier on a propaganda assignment and remained there until the German Consulate General was closed in June 1944. Returning to Berlin, he was assigned to Inland Division II (Internal Affairs) of the Foreign Office and reportedly had some connection with the investigations of persons accused of taking part in the abortive 20 July 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler. In November 1944, he was transferred to Geneva, where he was suspected of engaging in espionage and intelligence activities. He was expelled from Switzerland in June 1945.

After the war, Sonnenhol served as a deponent for the Defense in the Ministries Case before the Military Tribunals at Nuernberg. He then worked briefly for a news agency (DENA) in Bad Nauheim and was appointed press chief of the Federal Ministry for Marshall Plan Affairs under Franz Bluecher (FDP) around 1949. When the former Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation was established in 1953, he dealt initially with legal, cabinet, and parliamentary affairs and later became head of the section for questions pertaining to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and European integration.

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GROUP 1
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Gustav-Adolf SONNENHOL (cont.)

in Division II. He held the latter position until appointed to the OEEC around 1958.

As a member of Ministry for Economic Cooperation delegations, Sonnenhol participated in bilateral talks on coordination of development aid programs in the United Kingdom in February 1963, in France in March 1963, and in the United States in September 1963; he has also represented the Federal Republic at meetings of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In December 1964 he informed US Embassy officials in Bonn that he had been selected to head an inter-governmental working group on the Keban-Euphrates dam to be built in Syria. According to 1963 information, Sonnenhol is a supporter of FDP Bundestag deputy Ernst Achenbach, who has advocated the FDP's adoption of military procurement policies without regard to the balance of payments problems of the Allies and of acquisition of nuclear weapons by West Germany with French help. Sonnenhol is a founding member of Inter Nationes e.V. (Bonn), an organization designed to foster cultural relations with the West. He is married and the father of at least two children.

February 1965

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