

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

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West Germany, Left-Wing
Group Advocating Cooperation
with the Soviets

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12 October 1953

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On 25 August 1953, the following information was obtained from informant 6030, who received it from a sub-source of unknown reliability.

The most important left-wing groups advocating cooperation with the Soviets among the West German middle class are the BDU (Bund der Deutschen - League of the Germans) and the GVP (Gesamtdutsche Volkspartei - All-German Peoples' Party). The BDU was established on 10 May 1953 in Dusseldorf, and stems from the Deutsche Sammlung (German Rally) movement. It is headed by the former German Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wirth. In Bavaria, the BDU is led by the former S.D (Sozialistische Partei Deutschlands - Socialist Party of Germany) deputy to the diet, Hans Killebrand, and in the Ruhr area by Wilhelm Lifes, former lord mayor and police president.

Army

The Chairman of the GVP is Gustav Heinemann, former Minister of Interior in the first Adenauer government, who plays an important role in present day Protestant circles. Heinemann's assistants are Helene Wesel and Hans Bodensteiner, both members of the German Federal Parliament. Bodensteiner was sent to the Parliament on the CDU (Christliche Demokratische Union - Christian Democratic Union) ballot, but later resigned from that party. The GVP publishes the weekly SOS - Zeitung fuer weltweite Verstaendigung (SOS - Newspaper for World-Wide Understanding) in Berlin, Germany. Both Wirth and Heinemann have excellent personal connections and succeeded in securing cooperation from the press and radio.

The circle around Klara Maria Fassbaender, a lecturer at the Pedagogic Academy in Bonn, is also allegedly interested in promoting ties with the Soviets. She reportedly works for the U.S.S.R. She attended several conferences and delivered a number of speeches during the course of efforts on behalf of the Westdeutsche Frauen-Friedensbewegung (Peace Movement of West German Women). Fassbaender is allegedly one of the few West German politicians admitted to a reception given in the Summer of 1953 by Vladimir S. Semjonov, Soviet High Commissioner to Germany.

In an attempt to increase their influence within the ranks of the former German soldiers, the Soviets established the organization Fuehrungerring ehemaliger Soldaten (Guiding Ring of Former Soldiers), under the leadership of the former General, (Fau) Schrangl. His closest cooperatives are (Fau) Steidl, former DAF (Deutsche Arbeitsfront - German Labor Front) Gruppenleiter, residing at Mangelfeldplatz 7/1, Munich, Ing. Fritz Braun, former Brigadefuehrer in the 17, (Fau) Schirovski, former German Colonel, (Fau) Wagner, former German Major, Hans Baier, former German Lt. Colonel, (Fau) Rodewald, former

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AGENT REPORT

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German Lt. Colonel and (fnu) Buschoner, former German Captain. The Fuehrungering edits the following publications: "Militaerpolitisches Forum," with the aforementioned Steidl as Chief editor, and the monthly review, "Fuehrungering ehemaliger Soldaten," which is edited by the aforementioned Hans Baier, Am Glockenbach 2/IV, Munich.

The goal of close cooperation with the Soviet Union in the economic field is pursued by Dr. Ulrich Konck, professor at the Muenster University.

Among the former Hitler Youth leaders, friendship with the Soviet Union is propagated by (fnu) Jurczek, former HJ Obermannfuhrer. Jurczek has about eighty (80) followers culled from among former HJ leaders.

All the aforementioned groups and circles are probably centrally directed, and beyond any doubt sponsored and supported by the East. They are dangerous chiefly because of their excellent personal contacts and intensive oral propaganda.

In addition to the groups listed above, there are a number of cover groups pursuing the same goal but posing as strict cultural or economic organizations. These cover organizations include the Aktionsgemeinschaft evangelischer und katholischer Christen (Action Society of Evangelic and Catholic Christians), Stuttgart, Vereinigung der Freunde neuzeitlicher Musik (Association of Friends of Modern Music), Vogelweidstrasse 9a, Frankfurt/Main, Gesamtdeutscher Arbeitskreis fuer Land- und Forstwirtschaft (All-German Working Circle for Agriculture and Forestry), Heiner Landstrasse 16, Frankfurt/Main and Arbeitsgemeinschaft deutscher Journalisten (Working Association of German Journalists).

Sources: (B-6)
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