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UNITED STATES GROUP CONTROL COUNCIL

INFORMATION CONTROL SERVICE

APO 742, U.S. ARMY

INFORMATION CONTROL INTERVIEW SUMMARY (ICIS) #10

Week ending 15 September 1945

*Letters show
hard attitude toward
Little Nazis*

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SECRET

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1891

I. GERMAN TRADE UNIONISTS' PLAN RECONSTRUCTION

Leading German Trade Unionists, like German political leaders, are guided by the principal consideration that they must avoid the pre-1933 disunity among anti-Fascist forces which permitted HITLER to take over the government. With this end in view, most of the applications for the permission of trade union activities submitted to MG aim at the establishment of a single union, under the leadership of a top Executive Committee which would be elected, indirectly, by the union members. Since Allied occupation, activities of trade unionists have mainly consisted in aiding MG in the elimination of Nazis and in the maintenance of wages. As far as social and economic objectives are concerned, trade unionists appear to have set them within rather modest limits. By emphasizing, in most cases, the "non-political" nature of their projected organization, as well as by other declarations, they have indicated that they prefer gradual reform to social revolution.

II. NOTES ON PROSPECTIVE WURZBURG SCHOOL TEACHERS

To fill some of the gaps torn in the ranks of elementary school teachers by thorough de-Nazification, the MG detachment of the Main-Franken Regierungsbezirk has established a training program for more than 80 selected male and female future teachers. An attitude survey of 77 of the candidates, in the middle of the course, revealed a deeper understanding of the inherent evils of Nazism than is found among the ordinary population. On so vital an issue as the question of collective responsibility, however, opinions hardly differed from the "kleiner Mann" attitude of most German citizens. On the other hand, opinions expressed by them in regard to desirable aims of education favorably reflected the training they had received.

III. READING AND LISTENING HABITS AMONG FARMERS

The farmers of Hessen, Hessen-Nassau and parts of Baden are regular and discriminating customers of Allied information services, a survey of 208 large and small farmers reveals. All but 5% read U.S.-published newspapers, with over 85% of them reading the papers regularly. The penetration of the radio programs is somewhat lower, mostly due to the lack of serviceable receivers or shortage of current. Suggestions were made to shift the special farm program to a different time of the day, in order to make it easier for farmers to listen.

IV. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor, reaching U.S.-operated newspapers and radio stations, continue to deal with the problems of collective guilt, every day life, punishment of little Nazis. On the whole, they concern themselves more with the past than with the future, and specific suggestions and criticisms are negative rather than positive and constructive. Suggestions for memorials of Nazi crimes reveal a rather macabre note.

V. RUMORS

Rumors continue to be one of the major factors in the formation of public opinion in Germany. Most of them, based on wishful thinking, are still revolving around various possibilities of a split among the Eastern and Western Allies. Constant talk of anticipated exchanges of German territories reflects, and at the same time adds to, the general feeling of

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

S E C R E T

insecurity. Some rumors, dealing with food, are directed against the Russians. The atomic bomb, most Germans appear to believe, was their discovery, and HITLER, rumors have it throughout Germany, is still alive.

VI. THE MEDIA OF INFORMATION

The BERLIN Philharmonic gave two concerts which were enthusiastically received. A total of 216,000 people, or over 25% of the population in the U.S. sector of BERLIN, have seen American films. An interesting suggestion for the establishment of a humorous periodical with cartoons has been submitted by a former BUCHENWALD inmate. DINA, the new German news agency, has provided a consolidated domestic-news plus world-news report, transmitted by Hellschreiber, to German language newspapers since 6 September. An illegal pamphlet has been distributed in MUNICH.

VII. NEWS FROM OTHER ALLIED ZONES

In the British zone political activities appear to be rather vigorous, with some right-wing groups making their appearance. In the economic field, coal production is listed as being below 25% of capacity. Despite a recent slight increase in rations the outlook for the winter is grim. In the Russian zone, land reform has been decreed and is being carried out in Brandenburg and Saxony, all land over and above 100 hectares being distributed to landless peasants, agricultural workers and small farmers. Broadcasts of the Free Germany Committee have been officially discontinued. In the French zone, Dr. Hugo ECKENER of dirigible fame has been licensed to publish a newspaper.

S E C R E T

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I. GERMAN TRADE UNIONISTS PLAN RECONSTRUCTION

MG Regulations: Until the WEISDEM Declaration, and the more recent USFET announcement extending the scope of trade union activity, Germany's labor organizations had been in much the same position as Germany's incipient political parties. Military Government, previous to occupation, envisaging the possibility of party and trade union formations coming into the hands of undesirable Weimar or Nazi hands, had asserted a policy of slow, democratic development, and MG detachments later were simply given the prerogative of establishing local workers' councils on a plant or shop level, where it was evident that these labor organizations had no particular party or political bias.

In some towns and cities, local "trade unions", usually under the guidance of old SPD and Centrist leaders, and, in some cases, under Communist leadership, were allowed to form. During the early occupational period, workers' councils in ALSDORF, AACHEN, DORN and HALLE were quickly organized under self-appointed groups of political activists. In most towns and cities, however, trade union reconstitution was limited, as in COLOGNE, by the pressure of a conservative local government, or, as in NUREMBERG, by an MG wary of a movement, which, though carefully non-political in membership representation, was, nevertheless, closely allied to leftist anti-Fascist committees in both policy and leadership.

In most cases, labor formations made their primary objective that of de-Nazification as a preliminary and necessary step before they could begin to function as economic pressure groups. The possibilities of exercising economic pressure, in any event, was limited with the factories just beginning to operate, and with wages frozen and permission to strike restricted by MG. Trade unionists, therefore, whether legally organized or organized as interested individuals, became instrumental in most factories and businesses, as well as in the municipal labor offices, in eliminating Nazi leadership and Nazi rank-and-file, who were sometimes unified to resist the epuration measures of local MGs and the ANTIFAS. Trade unionists often lobbied successfully for the maintenance of wage rates, when remaining Nazis made attempts to lower them by lowering job classifications. Also, they succeeded in holding their jobs, when attempts were made to oust them.

Policy and Administration: Although limited to primary anti-Nazi objectives, trade unionists from the very beginning had begun to formulate and present plans for the complete reorganization of German trade unions in regard to both policy and administration. From these plans, and from some of their originators, such as ELGEN and KONRAD of NUREMBERG, or SCHIEFER and KROHLE of MUNICH, the main lines of the trade union structure of the future, far beyond the shop steward stage now in operation, are emerging.

Most insistent statement of policy has been the declaration in favor of "non-political" trade unions, by which is meant non-partisan organization. Most trade union sponsors have agreed that it was the political disunity of the trade union movement during the Weimar Republic which was responsible for the weakness of the trade unions' stand against National Socialism. Now, KPD, Centrist and SPD trade union leaders are convinced of the necessity for a coalition of the pre-1933 politically affiliated trade union groups which would override all political differences.

S E C R E T

This does not mean, however, that the trade unions will be non-political. Most constitutions, previously submitted for approval to MG or to SHAEF, have contained a statement of anti-Nazi and anti-militaristic intention, as well as a statement of general democratic aims. Occasionally, as in the MANNHEIM and HEIDELBERG applications, a clause asserting the existence of the class struggle has also appeared. In addition there seems to be a general agreement that the trade unions ought to have some participation in the local administrations, with a special seat on the city councils and/or representation through a body like the Chamber of Commerce.

The Principle of Union: Although the fundamental principle of a single non-political trade union has been voiced unanimously by all trade union leaders, there are indications that certain elements in the future may militate against this unity. With the emergence of the political parties by the adoption of harder and faster party lines, and the emphasis turned away from the unifying factor of anti-Nazism, there are signs that SPD, KPD and Centrist T.U. leadership, now combined, may split again into the traditional pre-1933 pattern. SPD and Centrist leaders have stated that the Communists are not accustomed to "trade union tactics," thereby asserting their fear of Communist revolutionary influence, and Communists on the other hand, notably ULBRICHT, one of the leaders of the Communist Party in BERLIN, have gone much further in asserting their antagonism to the German capitalist structure than most Social Democrats or Centrists are willing to do. MG regulations make provisions that if a split should occur in the trade union movement, more than one faction could be licensed.

To insure the existence of only one union, most trade union applications and petitions have asked for compulsory membership. Compulsory membership is necessary, union leaders rationalize, because it is needed temporarily during the period of reeducation, and besides, the only alternative would be to exclude non-union members from the benefits obtained through union activities.

Election of Executive Committee: The proponents of a single "non-political" union look forward to a federated trade union for the entire zone of occupation, and already proposals, most notably the MUNICH-NUREMBERG and FRANKFURT plans have been submitted. What is planned is a trade union constituted of some twelve industrial unions or divisions (FACHGRUPPEN) which in turn would be composed of various constituent craft sections; for example, the construction and stone industry, one division, would have several craft divisions, among them, the Roofers' Union, the Glass Workers' Union, the Carpenters' Union, and others as well. These industrial divisions, open or compulsory to all workers, usually including former Nazi Party members, will encompass salaried employees and officials as well as laborers. It is also planned to include civil servants in a special FACHGRUPPE. The voting power will be vested in all members, who elect the shop stewards, who, in turn, elect the representatives of their industries to a Union Congress. The Union Congress, by secret ballot, elects the Union Assembly, whose principal function seems to be the election of the top Executive Committee of the federation.

As planned at present, most of the power would lie in this Executive Committee, which will appoint the top leaders of the industrial divisions, and which can override the decisions of these leaders in the appointment of lower union officials. This procedure of appointment has already created some consternation in union circles among those who view this as a violation of democratic principles. But trade union leaders, notably SCHIEFER and KREHLE of MUNICH, originators of this plan, argue, in a somewhat specious fashion, that appointment is the only manner in which they can be sure that Nazi elements will not be able to take over the new movement. Democratic representation, they claim, will already have been established through the system of rank-and-file election of the Executive Committee. Since shop stewards, who form the electoral base, cannot have been Nazi Party members, there is no danger of Nazi infiltration through the general elections.

Social Reforms: Economic trade union aims will be typical of trade unions everywhere, though trade union leaders claim that they are agreed that under the temporary emergency they will make no attempt for a raise in wages. They also state that demands for a share in the factory management and other social reforms will be postponed. Temporarily, trade unions will probably continue their anti-Nazi activities and begin to establish their leadership.

Thus far trade union leadership has been in the hands of the pre-1933 SPD, Centrist or Free Trade Unionist leaders. With their new program of un-revolutionary socialism, however, it is likely that KPD leaders will make every effort to assume control without splitting trade union unity. To a limited extent the present elections for shop stewards, now going on in every city of Germany, will establish just how far labor is willing to follow their pre-1933 leaders.

II. NOTES ON PROSPECTIVE WURZBURG SCHOOL TEACHERS

De-Nazification directives are resulting in the almost complete elimination of available elementary school teachers in the Main-Franken Regierungsbezirk. As a result the regional MG Detachment has undertaken a teacher training program for more than 80 German men and women who were screened from over 2,000 applications.

An attitude survey was conducted in the middle of their course of study among 77 of the candidates (66 Catholics, 11 Protestants). The results of this survey were not intended as individual security checks - the names of the individual respondents were not asked - but rather as a method of arriving at an over-all picture of their underlying attitudes. The candidates, although screened before taking the course, will be re-screened at the termination of the program, for their political reliability.

General Political Attitudes: As far as obvious Nazi symbols were concerned, these teachers-to-be were markedly anti-Nazi. Their opinions on Adolf HITLER showed more than the typical criticism based upon HITLER'S failure; many included a strong note of moral condemnation. On the other hand, responses to some of the subtler political questions revealed the typical "kleiner Mann" attitude encountered among the population at large; in a few cases answers were even given which, although far from Nazi, could not be viewed as a mature democratic point of view. There was, for example, almost complete absence of willingness among the group to acknowledge the responsibility of the German people as a whole for the present plight of Germany; in this respect their opinions reflected the typical attitude of the German population today. The great majority of these future teachers said "HITLER" or "the Nazis" or "supporters of HITLER" in answer to the question "Who is responsible for the present plight of Germany?" Three answered directly, "the Germans themselves by supporting and tolerating the Nazi regime." Incidental answers included: the Allied bombings; disunity of Germany; poor foreign politics; "America"; and "the unjust peace of VERSAILLES."

Germany's Political Future: As was to be expected, the group overwhelmingly chose democracy as the form of government which they would like to see in Germany. A strong religious bent was indicated by the fact that 10 mentioned either Christian Democracy or Christian Government. Two thought that a monarchy would be best, while one said "a strong government."

The future teachers relied most heavily on religion as a solution to Germany's problems. This was clearly shown in the answers to the question: "How, in your opinion, can the reconstruction of Germany be best accomplished?" "Religion," mentioned by all but 12, far exceeded a "new political direction."

Should be related to their Catholic background

Religion	65
Hard work	59
New political direction	15
New strong leader	6
Rebirth of old national spirit	3
Through other means	5

(The total number of answers exceeds the number of teachers since many choose more than one alternative.)

Insight into the political ideas of these teachers can be drawn from their choice of the type of people whom they would like to see in the German government in the future. A conservative point of view was indicated by the fact that experts from business and industry were most frequently chosen. Next were pre-1933 political leaders, of whom the Centrists were most often named. Religious leaders received only slightly less mention. On the other hand, it was surprising to note that political victims of concentration camps and political emigrants were very definitely not considered the type of persons desired in the future German government; only five teachers voted for the instatement of former KZ inmates.

Ideas on Education: Probably most significant and hopeful were the attitudes which the teachers expressed on the aims of German education. No doubt this in part at least expresses the results of the indoctrination of their teacher training program. More teachers chose "proper relations between human beings" than "discipline and obedience" as the most important thing for a 15 year old pupil to be taught in the school. "Bodily development," so important in Nazi educational theory, was last on the list. Answers given to this question were:

Proper human relations	31
Practical preparation for jobs	30
Increase of general knowledge	24
Discipline and obedience	18
Artistic development	7
Bodily development	5

III. READING AND LISTENING HABITS AMONG FARMERS.

A survey of reading and listening habits among farmers living in various parts of the American Zone of Occupation showed clearly that U.S. published newspapers have a wider audience than Allied controlled radio stations in rural areas. In all, 208 large and small farmers were interrogated of whom all but about 5 percent reported that they read U.S. published newspapers. Reading habits were quite regular in that over 170 said that they read newspapers weekly. On the other hand, only 130 listened to the radio; the main factor in many cases being the lack of a radio in working order or the shortage of current. In all but one area the farmers' favorite station is the one immediately servicing the area. Some farmers in the BAMBERG region listened to Radio Graz rather than Radio Munich, most probably because of better reception. Contrary to reports of the early days of occupation to the effect that the Germans were listening to Radio Berlin rather than British or American stations, the survey shows only a very limited amount of listening to Radio Berlin in the rural areas.

A special question was asked concerning the farm program broadcast at 0630 every morning by Radio Luxembourg and relayed by Radio Frankfurt and Radio Munich. Fifty farmers, about one-quarter of the total number questioned, listen to this program. Of these, more than half have a favorable opinion of the program, with only about 10 percent expressing definite disapproval. There was much specific criticism of the program, however, even from those who liked it. The most common objection and reason for not listening was that at 0630

most farmers were already at work. Times suggested were 1145 or 2100, when farmers have more opportunity to listen. Some farmers thought that the program did not fill their primary need, which is information on where they can get farm equipment repaired and where they can barter their produce. Announcement of current farm prices is also considered desirable.

Suggestions along the same lines were made for the newspapers. Classified advertising sections which would aid bartering, publication of MG regulations governing farmers and of weather reports and listing of prices were suggested. On other subjects some farmers felt that the papers were devoting too much time to the past activities of Nazis. More local news is also often requested. Many of the farmers expressed a wish that the newspapers be published more frequently.

IV. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A reading of 200 letters written by Germans to U.S.-published newspapers during the last two weeks reveals not one single concrete proposal for overall action in rebuilding German society; and whatever criticism of the Allied program of democracy and re-education appears is rarely constructive, with a few notable exceptions. About half the letters still concern themselves with the problem of guilt. Spontaneous expressions of readers' opinions, stimulated by personal experiences or things seen in the papers or heard on the radio, deal almost exclusively with the past, and envisage the future either with general apprehension or suggestions merely for action in special spheres--punishment of Nazis, food and fuel for the winter, and the like.

Late replies to a radio inquiry on what should be done with the "little Nazis" (see IGIS # 5), for the most part, declare that the so-called "little men" were as dangerous as the big ones and sometimes even more. Two objections are usually made against them: that they were the most enthusiastic informers against non-Nazis, and that they have no political conscience, but act only for social and economic advancement, posing now as anti-Fascists with the same end in view as when they joined the Party. Some correspondents also bring these charges to bear on fellow-travelers of the NSDAP. One writer estimates that genuine opposition to Nazism, as contrasted with 'those who went to bed Nazis and woke up anti-Fascists,' numbered only 15% of the German population. M

Many letters, especially from Bavaria, lament the continued presence and alleged influence of former Party members and fellow travelers. They contain objections to retaining any Nazis in authority, regardless of when they joined the Party. A PW's father writes a long protest against delaying repatriation of non-Nazi servicemen while Nazi civilians who escaped the draft are leading normal lives at home. A few writers state that the de-Nazification policy is unduly hard on people who 'had' to join the Party to keep their jobs, but an official whom the Nazis discharged for political reasons in 1933 roundly asserts that no one had to join against his convictions. He states that it was always possible to stay out if one had the moral strength to face the consequences, and that these did not necessarily include the concentration camp. Several letters propose drastic punishments for Nazis, such as half rations, forced labor in Siberia, life imprisonment in concentration camps with former inmates as jailers, and drowning by being held upside-down in a ditch.

Some workers explain the background of German submission to the HITLER mania in technical psychological terms. A woman questions the propriety of judging a people for its subconscious impulses. If this were universal, she says, we would all stand condemned as murderers, adulterers or other criminals. Many letters, speaking of the 'moral indifference' of the German people, attribute it to the decline of religion.

One woman singles out her own sex as the chief culprit. Women voted for HITLER more heavily than men did, she says, and it was they who informed and denounced more eagerly and who still believe and circulate the wildest rumors.

One letter suggests training in self-reliance from the cradle, to eradicate the 'orders is orders' attitude. Another suggests that all uniforms should be permanently forbidden. The extreme in dramatization is reached by a journalist's proposal for a war memorial: a sculpture of a three-week-old corpse hanging on barbed wire and being eaten by rats. Grim reminders of Nazism are also suggested as political deterrents. One writer calls for a 5-minute air-raid warning all over Germany every January 30 to commemorate the first day of HITLER'S power. A committee of former DACHAU inmates violently disapproves Cardinal FAULHABER'S wish to build a chapel on the site of their imprisonment, and demands that the installations be left as they are, as a 'political museum' for future generations.

Programs for restoring democratic government and re-educating German youth figure in only a few of the letters, and then mostly as objects of criticism. One writer says that Germany's government must be constantly open to the criticism of a genuinely free press, but does not specify what kind of government he wants. A woman of 28 distrusts Allied notions of democracy for Germany on the ground that we punish Nazis for merely holding certain political views; she says that she will have to think twice about joining a political party now for fear that some 'democratic' power will punish her later on for doing just that. A father opposes re-education of Ps/W in military installations before repatriation, saying that this is just as regimented as any schooling they had under HITLER, since the element of compulsion is still there. A gynecologist declares that fear is the principal emotion of his patients with regard to the future, if he may judge by the number of working-class women who ask him for abortions.

V. RUMORS

1. U.S. Zone: The most frequently reported themes of rumors circulating among the civilian population in the U.S. zone continue to be: war between the U.S. and the USSR; harsh measures taken against the people by occupation authorities; the atomic bomb as a German invention; and exchange of territories among occupying powers. The first two of these subjects date back to well before V-E Day. The latter are of more recent vintage. All four themes constantly recur in new variations that keep them up to date.

Anticipation of a war with Russia continues to give rise to highly colored interpretations of U.S. Army movements observed by civilians, such as tanks traveling east, construction of airfields, and establishment of bomb depots. The rumor factory supplements actual measures with imagined ones. It is widely held that Germans are being recruited into the U.S. Army for eventual use against the Russians. In one community it is believed that Germans doing menial jobs in our installations have become regular U.S. Army personnel. This type of rumor is especially prevalent near the Russian zone. The entire population of KASSEL is reported to be convinced that the Russian-American war will break out in a few weeks.

In the first stages of the occupation, harsh measures were rumored to be forthcoming in all spheres of civilian life: marriage and alcoholic beverages forbidden, all Nazis to be put on half rations permanently, twenty years' hard labor for businessmen who prospered under HITLER. More recently, these dire forebodings have centered on the food problem. A shipment of chocolate from Switzerland 'to the German people'

SECRET

is alleged to have been impounded by American authorities, who are also said to have commandeered several freight-loads of coal intended for civilian use. UNRRA and Red Cross shipments for BERLIN children are being seized by the Russians.

Prevalent throughout the zone is a theory that the atomic bomb is a German invention, stolen by the Allies. One school of thought maintains that not only the formula of its manufacture but the very bombs that were dropped on Japan were taken from Germany; another, more conservative, affirms that the last step in the process of making the bomb was a mystery to us until we captured the German who knew it. The most specific statement of this view so far reported is that these men were flown to the U.S. in April from a scientific institute between EISENACH and GOTHA.

Exchange of territories between British, American and Russian forces has been predicted for months. Most rumors reported agree that the U.S. will get Thuringia, the British Hessen, and the Russians more of the north coast. One rumor-carrier stated 'on high American authority' that the British will take over Hessen on 15 September 1945.

2. British Zone: An analysis of rumors circulating among Germans in the British zone, as reported in the British Army of the Rhine "Weekly Intelligence Summary," shows a decrease in volume and a shift in tenor. They no longer play as much upon a possible split between the Western and Eastern Allies, but instead mostly express wishful thinking about more favorable treatment to be accorded the populace by the occupying powers. As in the U.S. zone, rumors on exchange of German territories among occupying powers are very frequent.

Here are some examples of current rumors in the British zone: the Russians intend to evacuate the whole of their zone and have already surrendered WEIMAR to the Americans; there will be surrender of Soviet-occupied Germany to the Western Allies in exchange for Anglo-American approval of Russian occupation of Manchuria; the British and Americans are clearing out of BERLIN; American forces will play the major role in occupying Japan and therefore will turn their zone in Germany over to the British; Britain will take over the whole of Germany as a British dominion; existing British dominions will open their doors to German emigrants; German Ps/W in Russian hands will be kept in Russia if they are fit, given further training and then incorporated into the Russian army; recruiting has started for the RAF among released German Ps/W; even SS men in the American zone may volunteer for service in the United States Army; a woman in SOEST reported that she heard a radio announcement (station not identified) that all political prisoners were being sent to France to work in coal mines; collections for the NSDAP are still being made in the Rhine province (investigation showed that the only collections in the area were for the benefit of ex-concentration camp inmates); Pastor HARTMANN of GESCHER has twice within three weeks preached sermons directed against fraternization and generally anti-Allied in tone (this is being investigated); HITLER is still alive (this is said to have fairly wide circulation); HITLER spoke over the Japanese radio just before the end of the Far Eastern war and promised to return in five years; the British will invite German children attending high schools to visit England; German Communists instigated the organized raids by DPs in order to enhance their own control; Poles in BRUNSWICK were granted three hours' free looting in celebration of V-J Day (this story was reported to Allied authorities by the Burgermeister of the city on 17 August); and stones are being hewn in the Harz Mountains, on orders of military authorities, for the erection of a monument in BAD OEYNHAUSEN in honor of Field Marshal Montgomery.

The report said that it is not clear yet whether the decline in rumors in recent weeks is due to a real lack of new material for rumors or to the success of Allied authorities in disseminating up-to-date news.

SECRET

VI. THE MEDIA OF INFORMATION

1. BERLIN District:

a. Music. The Philharmonic Orchestra of BERLIN will be administered by ISCS. However, since the orchestra will perform for all the sectors of occupation, major questions of policy will be discussed with officials of the other powers. The orchestra's two concerts under the direction of the colored American conductor Rudolph DUMBAR were more than sold out, and were on the whole enthusiastically received. The American-controlled Allgemeine Zeitung and the Christian-Democratic Neue Zeit printed favorable reviews, whereas the British paper Der Berliner gave a somewhat unfavorable critique. The performance of Beethoven's Fidelio, which opened the scheduled run of the Deutsche Opernhaus on 4 September, was well received. The Staatsoper, in its turn, opened with Gluck's Orpheus and Eurydice on 8 September.

b. Film. Attendance figures for the first four days of the new feature production shows indicated packed auditoriums for those theatres showing the feature programs, and excellent attendance also for the documentary programs. During the month of August, with four theatres open for two weeks and an additional four for the other two weeks, total attendance at U.S. film programs was 215,723. This figure represents about 80% of capacity, and over 25% of the total population of the U.S. sector. Five prints of an orientation film on BERLIN for exhibition to U.S. troops were loaned by the Russians for use by I & E. The first British feature film to be played in BERLIN will be Rembrandt, starring Charles Laughton. It is scheduled to open around the middle of this month.

c. Theatre. The Deutsches Theater opened on 7 September with Lessing's Nathan der Weise, starring Paul Wegener. The performance was well received by the Berlin Press.

d. Press and Publications. The well-known German artist and cartoonist SANDBERG, a long-time inmate of BUCHENWALD, has submitted an attractive plan for a semi-monthly illustrated humorous magazine called Ulenspiegel, on the lines of the old (pre-Nazi) Simplicissimus. The Chamber of Creative Artists is planning to publish a newspaper which will concern itself with art, literature, music and other cultural activities. According to one of the prospective licensees, the British have promised to license the paper, to be called Die Brücke, before the end of the month. The Russian bi-monthly magazine Neue Zeit (New Times), reprinted in the German language, is now available in BERLIN.

e. Registration. The registration of Germans in the U.S. sector of BERLIN who wish to engage in activities under the jurisdiction of ICD is now completed, except for some stragglers who did not hear of the registration procedure earlier. A total of 1104 registrations have been effected. (This compares with 1472 in the entire Western District as of 28 August.) Of the total, 586 were for bulk or retail distribution and sale of newspapers, and 564 were for bookstores, lending libraries and second-hand bookdealers. Two hundred eleven applications were for operating printing plants for licensed publishers. There were 73 registrations for distributing and processing of film. Only 22 applications were received to operate concert halls, theatres, opera houses or other places of theatrical or musical entertainment.

2. New German News Agency. U.S.-published newspapers and those operating under American license began on 6 September to receive daily a consolidated domestic-news world-news report. Dissemination of the consolidated Report to the various newspaper offices is effected by Hellschreiber transmission. The inauguration of the new service also provided an opportunity to change the initials GNS (German News Service), which might tend to remind Germans of DNB, to DANA, standing for Deutsche Allgemeine Nachrichten Agentur (German General News Agency), under which name the agency will be known to the Germans.

3. Newspaper Circulation. During the week ending 10 September, the eight U.S.-published newspapers in Germany, including the Allgemeine Zeitung in BERLIN, had a total circulation of 3,107,350. The Allgemeine Zeitung led the field with 600,000 copies printed, the Bayrischer Tag (BAMBERG) and the Muenchener Zeitung trailing only a little behind.

4. Turbulent Opening of Movie House in FULDA. The Europa Lichtspiele, the first movie house to reopen in Kreis FULDA, presented its first program, a documentary, On 31 August. This first sign of activity in the film field in that district was welcomed, many Germans remarking that they hoped feature films would soon be shown.

The opening performance, however, did not take place undisturbed. A large part of the crowd waiting at the doors before they were opened was composed of Polish DPs, who did considerable pushing and milling around, incidentally causing some damage to the theatre. Further damage was caused inside the theatre after the doors were opened. It developed that there were not enough seats for everybody, and those Poles who were without seats wanted to force Germans who had seats to give them up. The situation was cleared up with great difficulty. Arrangements have been made to post both a local policeman and one of the DP camp's Polish policemen at the theatre every night.

5. Illegal Activities in the Media. In MUNICH was found a copy of an illegal pamphlet, entitled Demokratische Rundschau and dated 11 August, which shows some of the most careful and thorough journalism so far found in illegal newspapers and pamphlets. Tone and content of the pamphlet indicate its origin from a leftist organization. Several small items, culled from Time, Newsweek and Stars and Stripes of the months of June and July, deal with Russia. A letter appearing in Stars and Stripes is used to strengthen the argument that some distinction should be made between Nazis and non-Nazis in the matter of requisitioning of houses for troops.

The rest of the contents are apparently the result of independent reporting. Included are an item on the ceremony honoring the dead of DACHAU, concluding: "The demonstration was an ardent avowal of the MUNICH anti-Fascists to fight for a new, anti-Fascist and democratic Germany"; a complaint that the Russian flag is not among those of the other Allies displayed in MUNICH; announcement of the appointment of a Communist to public office, followed by reports that the former Reichswehrminister GESSLER is at present employed as Secretary of State with the Bavarian Prime Minister, and that Professor HAUSHOFER, contrary to a statement in the Muenchener Zeitung announcing his arrest, is still at large; and various other complaints about the continuing freedom, or appointment to or retention in office, of big local Nazis.

VII. NEWS FROM OTHER ALLIED ZONES

1. British:

a. Politics. Increasing activity among the major political parties, preparatory to official sanction to commence functions, has been noted within the zone, outpacing the local "Antifas" (anti-Fascist organization), which are expected to fold upon that permission is granted to carry on official party activities. In HAMBURG the Communists and Social Democrats have already applied to military government for permission to begin activities, and in KIEL the Social Democrats are also preparing to launch operations. Activity of the Social Democrats, Communists, the Zentrum, and Christian Democrats has been reported from the southwestern part of the zone, as well as in the province of HANNOVER. New right-wing groups have made their appearance, mostly under businessmen's sponsorship. The foremost body of this type is in KIEL and led by the Oberbuergerrichter, Max EMCKE, a non-party lawyer who frequently represented accused before the People's Court. The first meeting on 8 August was attended by EMCKE, a KIEL banker named KNAPP, a merchant, a university professor, and two others. It is worth noting that

S E C R E T

EMCKE'S superior is the provisional Oberpraesident of SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, Dr. HOEVERMANN, member of the NSDAP since 1937 and a blockleiter between 1938 and 1944. The group aims to unite "democrats" to the right of the Social Democrats and stands ready to accept "little Nazis" for the purpose of "conversion."

Similar right-wing movements include the "Deutsche Aufbau-Partei" in GROMAU and the "Christliche Demokratische Einheitsfront" at BRUNSWICK. Branches of a "Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft" have also appeared in DUSSELDORF and FLENSBURG, with varying policies. The DUSSELDORF organizer demands that the "Antifako" be stopped by legislation, or force if necessary, and urges that all members of the NSDAP be allowed to be converted. In FLENSBURG the organizer declared the purposes of the group, said to consist mostly of left-wingers, to be pacifism and anti-Nazism.

b. Economic Situation. Reports from the British zone indicate general expectations of a severe winter and the Germans themselves are making such preparations as they can by laying in stocks of food, fuel and clothing. However, the city dwellers and refugees can make little preparation. Food supplies are reported to be low throughout the zone, but even so, rations for the 79th period, beginning 20 August, were raised an average of 200 calories per day. This compared with an average increase of 50 calories in the preceding period. The boost was largest in the Rhineland, which had run below other areas. Miners' rations have been increased to 3,400 calories a day, as part of the effort to increase coal production. SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN now has the lowest ration (1,235 calories per day), due to the presence of more than 500,000 personnel of the former Wehrmacht and numerous refugees in that region.

Fuel is also in short supply, and that available in towns is needed almost exclusively for cooking, as little gas or electricity can be obtained for that purpose. In some areas authorities have organized wood-felling and peat is being cut in parts of HANOVER, but transportation of the fuel into the towns still presents a formidable obstacle.

The total production of hard coal in the zone during August was reported at 2,560,000 tons, or less than 25 per cent of normal output. Just a little more than half of the coal produced is available for distribution, the remainder being necessary for operation of power stations, gas and coke plants near the mines and operation of the mines. Brown coal production in August exceeded 70,000 tons daily, about 12,000 tons of which was also absorbed by local power stations.

Townsfolk have been taking such surplus clothing as they can spare into the country as barter for food.

2. Russian:

a. Confiscation of Estates. Following a concentrated propaganda program in the Soviet-controlled press and radio on behalf of land reform, decrees were announced for the confiscation of large estates in the provinces of Saxony and Brandenburg; a proclamation calling for similar action in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was issued by the "Anti-Fascist Democratic Parties"—namely, the Communist, Social Democratic, Christian Democratic Union, Cultural Union for Germany's Democratic Rebirth, and the Free German Trade Union Association.

The land reform decree for Saxony provides for expropriation of all real estate, including agricultural property, of the following: war criminals and persons sharing war guilt; Nazi leaders, active members of the Reich government in office under Nazi rule and members of the Reichstag; and all large "feudal Junker estates" exceeding 100 hectares.

S E C R E T

Such confiscated land is to be parceled out to farmers with less than five hectares, landless peasants, agricultural workers, and small tenant-farmers, resettlers and refugees, towns for milk and meat production, and scientific research institutes and teaching institutions. The allotments will range up to ten hectares, depending upon the quality of the soil, with priority to large families. The price for the land corresponds to the value of one year's harvest - i.e. 1,000 to 1,500 kg of rye per hectare at autumn 1945 prices. The first instalment of ten percent is to be paid by the end of 1945 and the remainder in equal instalments in cash or kind. The land is transferred free of all debt. Special communal commissions are established to take an inventory by 25 September 1945 on all land subject to transfer to the land pool and by 4 October the regional or district administrations are to inform farmers which land is available. The Brandenburg decree followed along the same lines as that for Saxony.

b. Free Germany Committee Broadcasts End. Radio Moscow announced on 9 September that broadcasts to Germany by the Free Germany National committee would cease at the close of that day, explaining that "Now that Germany again possesses newspapers and radio stations which tell her the truth, she no longer needs the voice of the Free Germany station." The committee had been broadcasting propaganda to Germany since July 1943 calling upon the people to rise against HITLER.

c. New Press Service Starts Operations. On 31 August a news service for the German provincial press in the Soviet zone began functioning under the title "News Agency of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany." The broadcast is on 1961 m., a Moscow wave-length, but the news is given under a BERLIN dateline and a directional fix shows that the transmitter is in the BERLIN direction. The news is transmitted three times daily: 1200-1500; 1800-2100; and 2200-2330. The service presumably is mandatory and includes Tass items and world news, such as from Sovietischer Nachrichtendienst.

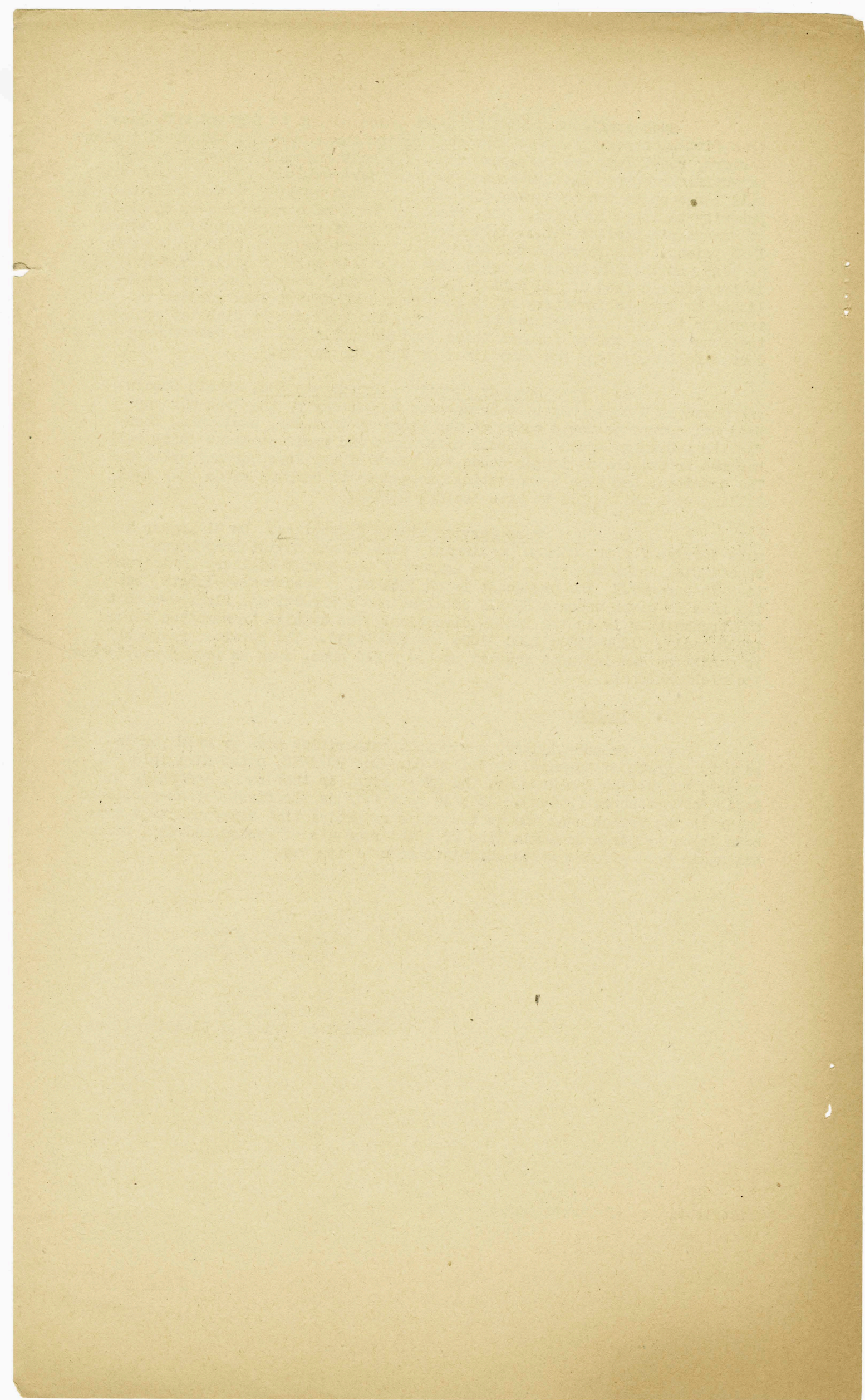
3. French:

French military government authorities have granted permission to a group of Germans, headed by Dr. Hugo ECKENER, noted dirigible expert, to publish a newspaper, the Stdt-Kurier, in that zone, according to Radio Schwarzenburg (Swiss). It said that this is the first German-published paper in the French zone and quotes it as reporting that vigorous steps have been taken to purge economic life from the remnants of Nazism, and that Baden has again been given a state administration of its own.

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