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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

~~S E C R E T~~

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN

Declassified and Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency Date: 2001

General Reinhard Gehlen is a professional military and intelligence officer. Until his retirement on 30 April 1968, he was President of the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), the West German Federal Intelligence Service, as well as chief of its predecessor organizations formed at the end of World War II.

General Gehlen was born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt. He currently lives in Berg on the Starnberg Lake near Munich. He finished his formal schooling in 1920 and entered the military service directly. He received his commission as second lieutenant in 1923 and served his initial tours of duty in the horse artillery. He married in 1931 and in 1935 he attended the War Academy in Berlin. At that time he held the rank of captain. By 1939 and shortly before the outbreak of World War II, he was promoted to major. He participated in the Polish campaign, but by 1940 he was transferred to a headquarters post. At that time he became an aid to General Halder, who was Chief of the General Staff. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1941 and became chief of Fremde Heere Ost in 1942. (Fremde Heere Ost /Foreign Armies East/ was that section of the German High Command charged with responsibility for charting the enemy order of battle on the eastern front. It was essentially an evaluation unit and worked closely with the Abwehr. It did engage in line crossing operations as the war progressed, however.) Gehlen received his promotion to colonel soon after taking over Fremde Heere Ost and by 1944 was promoted to brigadier general. In the course of preparing estimates on enemy order of battle, he reached the conclusion as early as 1943 that the German cause on the eastern front was lost, and his continued pessimistic evaluations led to a reprimand from Hitler, and in the last days of the war he was relieved of command by order of Hitler. Long before that day General Gehlen had already consulted with senior members of his staff and made plans to continue their efforts against the Russians after the inevitable capitulation of the German Army, but in cooperation with the American Army. General Gehlen consequently cached his files in the Bavarian Alps and withdrew to that area in the final days of the war. He subsequently surrendered to the Americans, and after his initial POW debriefings, he presented his plan for the continued collection of order of battle information of the Soviet Armies. General Gehlen was motivated by his strong view that the position of the Soviet Army so deep in Europe constituted a

NWC-002652

~~S E C R E T~~

8/31 Berg bei Starnberg
Waldstrasse 68
Obb. / BRD

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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real threat to Western civilization. His views were so strong that he was able to convince his captors of these views. He was then flown back to Washington in 1946 for further debriefings, and the decision was made at the G-2 level to allow General Gehlen to reform his unit and to permit him to engage in a collection effort against the Soviet Army in Eastern Europe. Some [ ] were appropriated for this effort. General Gehlen succeeded in reforming his unit and retrieving most of his files. He operated under G-2 sponsorship from 1946 until 1949 when CIA assumed responsibility for the Gehlen organization as it was then known. From 1949 until 1956 General Gehlen devoted his full energies to legalizing his organization as the West German Federal Intelligence Service. He achieved this goal in March 1956 and thereby became its first president. He became directly responsible to the Chancellor's officer. After legalization he strove to develop his organization into a world-wide intelligence service having collection capabilities and liaison on a world-wide basis. He has gone a long way toward accomplishing this goal.

As a personality General Gehlen still remains essentially a professional military officer in habits and attitudes though he never entered on active duty after World War II. He is, however, a lieutenant general in the reserve. At one time he was an accomplished horseman though he no longer permits himself this luxury, primarily because of time considerations. He is a family man and has four children. It is believed General Gehlen leads a quiet life outside of his official duties. In all things he is essentially conservative. He rarely entertains, and he does not drink. His English is fluent, and he is socially poised and very much at ease among senior American officials. Since his retirement he has been engaged in writing his memoirs and compiling a history of the BND.

General Gehlen was succeeded on 1 May 1968 by General Gerhard Wessel, his adjutant in Fremde Haere Ost, who was instrumental in assisting in the formation of the Gehlen organization. Wessel has served with the BND, the West German Ministry of Defense, and the NATO Military Committee in Washington and Brussels.

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Date: 2001
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

NAME: GEHLEN, Reinhard (ex-Brig. Gen.) Hqs

BIRTHDATE: 3 Apr 1902
BIRTHPLACE: Erfurt, Thuringia
RESIDENCE: Berg am Starnberger See
Waldstr. 68 (near Munich)
RELIGION: Protestant

GEHLEN, Reinhard
ALIAS:
WIFE:
TELEPHONE #:
VEHICLE:
LICENSE #(s):

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS OF 1958

HEIGHT 5' 8½"
WEIGHT 145-160
EYES blue
HAIR dk blond, balding
PHOTO DATE prob pr 51

BUILD medium
TEETH
OTHER glasses, scull
mustache, military
bearing, looks
young for age.

FATHER:
MOTHER:
SPOUSE:
CHILDREN:
OTHER RELATIVES W

DOB/POB:
DOB/POB:
DOB/POB:
DOB/POB:
DOB/POB
DOB/POB:

EOD: ~~summer 1945~~ Jan 1946
RANK:
POSITION:
SECTION:
FROM: Origin TO:

Note: For details of GEHLEN's background and experience see following pages.

DATE TERMINATION OR SEPARATION:
NOW STATUS:

NWC-002701 SECRET
KAPOK

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GEHLEN, Reinhard.
b. 3 Apr 1902.

Chronological Information:

1908-20	Humanistisches Gymnasium Breslau. Graduated.
1920, Apr	Entered military service (artillery).
1923	Commissioned Second Lieutenant.
1928	Promoted First Lieutenant.
1931, Oct	Married Herta (nee von SKIBLITZ-KURZBACH) GEHLEN on 11 Oct 1931, Glogau.
1933	Travelled to Rome, Italy (leave).
1933, Fall-1935, Jan	Attended War Academy, Berlin.
1934	Promoted Captain.
1937	Travelled to Finland and Sweden (leave).
1937-38	First General Staff Officer 10 Department Fortifications.
1937-45	German Wehrmacht troop duty Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Greece, Russia.
1938-39	Battery Commander.
1939, Mar	Promoted Major.
39 Sep-Nov	Ia (G-3) 213th Infantry Division.
1939, Nov-1940, Jul	OKH Gruppe Landesbefestigung (Chief, Fortifications Sect. General Staff).
40 Jul-Nov 1940 Nov-	Aide (Adjutant) to Chief of General Staff, General HALDER.
1942 Apr	Chief Gruppenleiter I, Ost (Sect Chief within Dept for Plans and Operations).
1941 Jul-1942 Apr-	Promoted Lieutenant Colonel.
1945 Apr	Chief ABT Fremde Heere Ost.
1942 Dec	Promoted Colonel.
1944 Dec	Promoted Brigadier General.
1945 Apr	Dismissed by Special Order of Hitler on 9th of April.
1945 May	Prisoner of War, U.S. Forces, on 23 May.
1945 May	Prisoner of War arrived at the 12th Army Group IC on 27 May.
1945 end	Prisoner of War sent to USA by War Department.
1946 Jun	Prisoner of War returned from the States on 5 June.
1946 Jul	Since has cooperated with USIS.
1946	Reinhard GEHLEN Profession: Merchant Address: c/o Dr. ERHARDT 10 Guenthersburg Allee Frankfurt a/M.
1946 on	Several trips to Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain and France.
1946 Jul 12-Nov 30	Subject documented as having lived in Washington, D. C. during this period.

This Information was extracted from [redacted] passport, (Imigration stampings).

Jan	19	German stamp.
"	19	London Airport.
"	22	Harwick, England.
"	23	Hock of Holland.
"	23	Kon. Marechaus Venlo stat. (Dutch border).
"	23	German stamp.
56 May	30	Dover.
"	30	Belgie-U Havenoostende.
"	30	Belgique-E Herbesthal 27.
Jun	1	Belgique-S Herbesthal.
"	1	Belgie-S Havenoostende Zeevaartpolitie 11.
"	1	Dover.

SECRET

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NAME: GEHLEN, Reinhard (ex-Brig. Gen.) Hqs [-]

GEHLEN von VARENBACH, Reinhard: Occasional references to this name which would indicate that either Subject or his father combined their surname with that of Subject's mother — fairly common practise in Germany.

ALIAS: [ ] h [ ] Covername used within the Org.
[ ] b. [ ]
[ ] b. [ ]

(Subject has been issued at various times German identity papers in connection with the three aliases mentioned above).

[ ], b. [ ]. Issued ACO-card D-147996. This alias used only occasionally, for instance in travelling to Austria.

[ ] These aliases used whenever special precautionary measures are [ ] warranted and wherever mistaken identity with another person of the same name is desirable.

[ ] b. [ ] Liegnitz, Schlesien. (Kaufmann).

BORN: 3 Apr 1902; Erfurt, Thuringia, Germany.

RELIGION: Protestant.

RESIDENCE: Berg a/Starnberger See, Waldstr 68. (near Munich, Germany).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Photo.
Height: 174 cms. Weight: 65-72 kg Eyes: blue Hair: dark blonde, Face-shape: round Complexion: light Build: medium central baldness.
Scars:
Prominent ident. features: military bearing, extremely young looking compared with chronological years, small mustache, wears glasses.

FATHER: [redacted]

MOTHER:

WIFE:

CH: GK
GK
GK
GK

OTHER RELATIVES:

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DOD: 1946 (CIS Co-operation)
Payroll No: 3002. Jan 55 gr, from "G" to "GS" category: DP 1015/250.
Emergency No:
Position: Chief, Section 28 (ex-Section 30).
Organization:
Cover Unit: [redacted]

Special Connections No: 20
Housing Loan No. 8, dated 1 Apr 51.
Bank: Bayerische Vereinsbank, Munich.

DOCUMENTATION:
Passport: Reinhard GEHLEN van VARENBWICK. TTD [redacted]
Reinhard GEHLEN, TTD [redacted] issued Stuttgart, 30 Sep 49 valid to 30 Mar 50 for USA.
TTD [redacted] valid for Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain and France (50).
TTD [redacted] issued 20 Jun 51 for UJDRACO purpose.
Passport no. [redacted]
Passport No. [redacted]
Passport No. [redacted]
Passport No. [redacted] Reg. Nr. CA-1004/54 issued 5 Nov 54, Munich, profession: Kaufmann.

Ausweis: Reinhard GEHLEN: H 519712, 3 Mar 47, Police President, Frankfurt/M.
[redacted] B 03611.
H 478955 (also listed as H 478055). Address: Munich, Seefelderstr 8.

Pistol Permit: Reinhard GEHLEN: Automatic pistol permit [redacted] 20 Mar 51.
Pistol Permit, F & D, B 046419, 6 Feb 53, automatic pistol. Make Browning, Ser # 108877.
Gun permit [redacted] F & D, 1 Mar 51, automatic pistol German Walther PPK, Serial # 227066 K.

7th Army K Letter: Issued 29 Jul 53.
ZIPPER ID Card: B 03611

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sake:

UTILITY figures of
SS, SD & SA

51 out of 1102 ZIPPERites = 5%

POB Figures of
SS, SD,& SA

50 out of 600 ZIPPERites = 8% checked

From the above comparison we see that POB's records show only a 3% higher incidence of SS, SD and SA-types than did UTILITY's statement. In fact, from a review of our findings we find nothing to seriously refute ZIPPER's claims "that in terms of SS and SD percentage they are better off than most [redacted] ministries."

4. By way of further comparison it is interesting to note figures recently compiled by [redacted] Bonn from Berlin Documents Center records which show that the present Bundestag has 129 or 26.5% former NSDAP members. UTILITY in a memo dated 8 March 1950 to [redacted] stated that:

> "Of all full time coworkers of the staffs of our organization (including District Agencies), 28 percent of the 785 coworkers in question were former members of the NSDAP."

We may consider UTILITY's 28 percent figure to be a fairly conservative one in view of the fact that [redacted] study [redacted] shows up only 13% ZIPPERites in all former Nazi categories.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

NAME GEHLEN, Rheinhardt (General)

CASE NO.

DATE 27 August 1952

NATIONALITY German

BIRTHDATE

BIRTHPLACE

PRESENT POSITION Chief, Intelligence Organization

RACE

SEX Male

LOCATION

MARITAL STATUS

NAME OF SPOUSE

GEN. OCCUPATION Intelligence Agent

CHILDREN

RELIGION

EDUCATION

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

LANGUAGES

ATTITUDE TOWARDS: U.S.

HONORS

U.S.S.R.

REMARKS:

Former General, Rheinhardt GEHLEN, who served in Hitler's General Staff as Chief of the Department of Foreign Armies reportedly currently heads a secret organization in West Germany which evaluates intelligence from the East. When the Hitler armies collapsed in 1945, Gehlen is said to have escaped westward with most of the secret files of his department. He allegedly kept in his control many of the top secret lists of German agents planted in the Soviet Union and the eastern neighbor states which subsequently became Soviet satellites. He supposedly had the key to the espionage network built by Canaris, Himmler and Schellenberg. The Americans reportedly took him prisoner but not for long because American intelligence chiefs reportedly became very impressed by his ideas and his documentation which he was able to put at their disposal. They are said to have set him up in an office and permitted him to pick a small staff of ex-Abwehr officers (Gen. Canaris's Intelligence Service) most of whom were equipped with good anti-Nazi records. Within a few weeks Gehlen was providing excellent reports on Soviet military and political activities in the eastern zone and was subsequently permitted to expand his staff and his scope of activities. As he expanded, however, many Nazis, SS men and SD men crept into his organization where they enjoyed full protection.

Today Gehlen's espionage organization is said to have agents in all parts of the world. The Americans reportedly supply the funds which amounts to [redacted] a year. The former General is said to be able to multiply this sum to many times its original value through clever business deals. It is believed that he has already succeeded in piling up a substantial reserve which would enable him to carry on independently should the Americans cease to support him. The material collected by Gehlen is said to be of first class value. 1/ The interpretation of it, done by his

FORM NO. 60-64
1 October 60

SECRET

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Date: 2002

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(General)

(Continued)

skilled analysts at their headquarters in Munich has impressed not only the Americans but the [redacted] and the [redacted] as well. A Navy intelligence report of November 1948 states that Gehlen's organization maintains 15 to 16 outer listening posts along the borders of the Russian occupied zone while the organization itself is composed of between 30 and 40 General Staff officers and 50 to 60 other officers. 2/

The danger of Gehlen's organization lies in the future. It has already become an immense underground power in Germany and has key men in all German Government offices, in the police, newspapers, radio stations, etc. His organization has even penetrated the Adenauer Government's Office for the Protection of the Constitution (deemed the secret police office). 1/ Gehlen has been suggested for a position with this office, according to several reports. 3/ 4/ In any event for the present, his network is only using its underground power to expand its influence still father, get its member in strategic positions, and cover ex-Nazis and SS men from any persecution.

Gehlen himself is reportedly not ambitious for political power. (He is however listed as a member of the Bruderschaft) 5/ His hope supposedly is to become the Intelligence chief of the European Army. The many ex-Nazis and ex-officers high up in his machine, however, are regarded as ambitious and representing the real danger. 1/

SOURCES:

1/ DAILY EXPRESS, 17 March 1952, Unclassified.
2/ Navy, Comnavforger, 350-8-48, 15 November 1948 (B-3), Secret.
3/ State, Bonn Report, 7 April 1950, Confidential.
4/ State, OI Bonn Memo to OI Frankfurt, 18 April 1950, Secret.
5/ State, BI files, Confidential.

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FOR COORDINATION WITH Army

MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

ROUTINE
R 191320Z JUL 63

EE

FM OUSARMA BONN GER

TO RUEPDA/DA WASHDC

INFO RUFLC/USEUCOM PARIS

RUFDAE/USAREUR

DA GRNC

BT

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS.
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ CITE: CX-137.

FOR ACSI. SGD HILL.

1. (U) GERMAN PRESS HAS REPORTED PUBLIC RUMORS AND OFFICIAL DENIALS THAT REINHARDT GEHLEN (AN ARMY RESERVE LT GENERAL) WILL RESIGN THIS FALL AS DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE BECAUSE OF REACHING THE AGE OF 62. PRESS ALSO REPORTED, AS OFTEN BEFORE, THAT A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR WOULD BE BRIG GENERAL GERHARD WESSEL.

2. (C) NEITHER OCA NOR ARMA IS AWARE OF ANY INDICATIONS CONFIRMING RUMOR OF GEHLEN'S RETIREMENT. BOTH BELIEVE WESSEL WOULD BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION IF RUMORS PROVE TRUE.

3. (FOAO) THE CURRENT TRIAL AGAINST ALLEGED COMMUNIST INFILTRATORS IN GEHLEN'S ORGANIZATION HAS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND WILL DOUBTLESS GIVE RISE TO CONTINUING CRITICISM OF GEHLEN AND RUMORS OF HIS RESIGNATION.

4. GP-3

BT

ACTION: ACSI
DISTR: DCSOP, ACSFOR, OSD, JCS, NAVY, AF, CMC, DIA, DIA(SA)
DA IN 68475

FOR COORDINATION WITH US Army

PAGE 2

SCO FORM 35
4 JUN 64

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May 1965

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN

General Reinhard Gehlen is President of the West German Federal Intelligence Service. (BND).

Born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt, Germany, he finished his formal schooling in 1920 and entered military service directly, receiving his commission in 1923. Attending the War Academy in Berlin in 1936, he became a major in 1939, a brigadier general in 1944.

In charge of Foreign Armies-East in 1943, he came to believe the German cause on the Eastern front was lost. Reprimanded by Hitler for his negative opinions, he was ultimately dismissed toward the War's end. After caching his files in Bavaria, he surrendered to the Americans.

Reforming his unit, General Gehlen operated under G-2 auspices from 1946 until 1949 when CIA assumed sponsorship. The Gehlen Organization was legalized as the West German Service in March 1956.

General Gehlen has expanded his activities to the point that his organization has been accepted as a world-wide service. Expected to retire within the next two or three years, he lives quietly with his wife in Berg on the Starnberg Lake near Munich. He speaks good English.

Prepared for Admiral Rayborn, May 1965

Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

NWC-002360

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ORIG: JAMES CRITCHFIELD
UNIT: C/[redacted]
EXT: 7903
DATE: 17 APRIL 1968

MESSAGE FORM
TOTAL COPIES: 29

SECRET

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

1		6	
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5		10	

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
BY _____ PER _____ #_____

☐ INDEX ☐ DESTROY ☐ RETURN TO _____ BRANCH ☐ FILE RID
☐ NO INDEX ☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

CONF: ☐ RID COPY

INFO: FILE VR

(classification) SECRET (date and time filed) 17 1511Z (elm) 107 (plc) (reference number) 8

IMMEDIATE

TO MUNICH (~~PRIORITY~~) INFO BONN (ROUTINE) CITE DIRECTOR

PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING TO UTILITY FROM [redacted] AT 17 APRIL DINNER:

"AS YOUR AMERICAN FRIENDS GATHER THIS EVENING TO OFFICIALLY BID YOU FAREWELL FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, I AM SURE THAT MUCH WILL BE SAID BY MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUES ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD. I WOULD JOIN THEM IN THIS EXPRESSION BUT WOULD NOTE THAT IN THE UNCERTAIN YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR II THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU PERSONALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY MADE TO LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE WESTERN NATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMERICA, WERE BUILT MAY BE JUDGED IN HISTORY AS YOUR GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN SECURITY AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE. TO HAVE BEEN AN OBSERVER AND PARTICIPANT IN THAT EFFORT WAS FOR ME A UNIQUE AND PROVILEGED EXPERIENCE."

END OF MESSAGE

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Date: 2001

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DC/EUR
RreleasING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS
SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

JAMES CRITCHFIELD
C
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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COPY NO.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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REINHARD GEHLEN
Präsdident des BND a.D.
Generalleutnant d.R.a.D.

8131 BERG bei STARNBERG, den WALDSTRASSE 66

4 February, 1969

Executive Registry
69-1155

DD/P 9-0782

Dear Mr. Helms,

Not only the United States but also all cooperating Intelligence leaders in the West complain the death of the Honorable Mr. Allen Dulles who was for all of us a symbol of seriousness and honesty in our common efforts to work for a peaceful world. It is not accidental that in the past in order to avoid his name in written documents we used the cover name "The Gentleman". He always proved to be not only an outstanding American official but also a friend of Germany. During all the years I admired his foresight, his experience and his broadmindedness. So I will always remember this great man as representative of the American intelligence effort during a long time. We participate in your grief.

Sincerely yours

R. Gehlen

Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001

NWC-002745

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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REINHARD GEHLEN

8131 BERG BEI STARNBERG, DEN
WALDSTRASSE 40

6 May 1970

Executive Registry
70-3132

Dear Mr. Helms,

I want to thank you very much for your kind birthday letter and your birthday congratulations which were forwarded to me by Heinz Herre. It was very kind of you to remember this day in spite of the pressure of your work. I can imagine that during the last months the working conditions have been and still are difficult for your service and for yourself. My thoughts and those of my friends are with you, wishing you good success.

Again just under the present circum - stances I remember with gratitude our agreeable cooperation.

With best wishes and regards to you and Mrs. Helms, also from my wife,

Sincerely,

R. Gehlen

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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2001

NWI-002455

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26 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/C1/L 3

SUBJECT: Sefton Delmer's Articles on Gehlen in the Sunday Telegraph

1. These two articles are subtly and maliciously slanted, either as a result of British distaste for German militarists or a more sinister intent to serve Communist ends. Here are a few examples:

a. Delmer says that at the end of the war Gehlen was "in command of all anti-Soviet operations". He wasn't. He was in command of German military intelligence against the USSR. Then as now, he was mainly concerned with OB.

b. "For his own work had shown him that OSS had not even begun to function in the Soviet Union" (by the end of the war). True, it had not. But there is a nasty implication here that Gehlen had been busily at work against the OSS and had been so successful that he knew what it was doing and what it wasn't.

c. "For most of that first conversation Gehlen was examining /General/ Patterson, not Patterson Gehlen." Here Delmer is describing Gehlen's first postwar contact with U.S. intelligence. How does he know? He wasn't there. The invention is in line with Delmer's consistent attempt to show Gehlen as very clever and very sinister.

d. "And it was in Washington that Gehlen made his all-important deal - the deal which was the dream of Himmler and Schellenberg, the deal which enabled him to revive a section of Hitler's General Staff and lay the foundation of German rearmament at a time when such rearmament was still anathema...." This is distorted and vicious. Gehlen laid the foundation for postwar German intelligence, not the General Staff or armaments.

Declassified and Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency Date: 2001

2000-002544

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

e. "For not only was he able to turn his unit into a shadow of German General Staff but more important still he was now in a position to supply the Americans with the kind of intelligence which would make them feel that it was essential to recreate the German Army to help in the defence of Europe against the Russians." The same twist is evident here. Some of Gehlen's key people were and are officers; others were not. The model on which the organization was fashioned was, naturally, the FHO (Fremde Heere Ost) of the OKW, not the General Staff itself. And Gehlen's product was not diabolically altered to pit us against the Soviets or to lay the groundwork for the remilitarization of Germany. Here and elsewhere, Delmer portrays the Americans as the naive dupes of the subtle, scheming Gehlen.

f. Delmer also charges that Gehlen's organization recruited many former SD and Gestapo members. This is an old Communist canard. Most of Gehlen's people were straight G-2 types, a few were Abwehr, but very few were SD or Gestapo, precisely because Gehlen knew he could not afford them politically - and also because these types were looked upon with distaste by the professional officer class.

g. The second article starts, "Berlin remains the main battlefield in the war between the two rival gangs of Hitler's former Secret Service men." The main lie here is the assumption of moral - or immoral - equality between East and West. This lie is basic to Communist propaganda. Another lie is the "Hitler's Secret Service men" - i.e., SD and Gestapo, as noted above. As a matter of fact, some of Gehlen's key people were part of the military plot against Hitler.

2. The two articles are, in effect, mischievous. Their net effect is to render a service to the East, not the West.

[redacted]
CI/[redacted]

2 - Addr
1 - DP

[redacted]

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~~SECRET~~

1961

SUBJECT: Biographic Sketch of General Reinhard GEHLEN

1. General GEHLEN is the President of the West German Federal Intelligence Service. He has held this position since 31 March 1956 when the predecessor organization became legalized. During the postwar period and prior to that time General GEHLEN headed the private intelligence organization which bore his name before becoming the present West German Federal Intelligence Service.

2. General GEHLEN was born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt and was educated in Breslau. He entered the military service in 1920 and was commissioned in 1923. His first service was in the horse cavalry. In 1935 he attended the War Academy and subsequently became a General Staff Corps officer. He was a battery commander at the outbreak of World War II and was almost immediately promoted to the rank of Major. He filled a number of staff assignments coming in close contact with Generals HALDER and HEUSINGER. By 1942, he was placed in command of Fremde Herre Ost which was roughly the German equivalent of American G-2 intelligence operations on the German East front. He was a colonel at this time and was soon promoted to Generalmajor. His unit had both an operational and an analysis function regarding Soviet Army order of battle on the East front. He aroused the ire of Hitler as early as 1943 when during the course of an order of battle briefing for Hitler it was implied the German Army was facing defeat. Nevertheless his organization continued to function effectively during the remainder of the war under General Staff Corps protection at the time when the Abwehr disintegrated. By the time the general military situation began to disintegrate, GEHLEN made plans with several of his senior officers to withdraw with the files for the purpose of caching them in Bavaria. Basic plans were also laid for recontacting key personnel after the inevitable surrender in event a continuation of their work were possible.

3. In May 1945 and from a hideout in Bavaria, General GEHLEN surrendered to the United States Army. During the course of his interrogation he chose to reveal his ideas and plans for a continuation of his work. He and certain of his coworkers were sent to Camp Richey for a more detailed interrogation and a decision was made at the G-2 level to return General GEHLEN to Germeny and allow him to rebuild his organization under G-2 responsibility. His organization was first located in Oberursel and later in Pullach. In 1948, CIA was requested to look into the GEHLEN Organization with a view to making a decision to take it over. By 1949, the decision was made and Pullach Operations Base was created to conduct liaison with the German organization and assist them as necessary. GEHLEN worked during this period to preserve the integrity of his organization from American control so that it would be politically acceptable to Bonn at the proper time. The essential American position was that of holding the

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[ ] GEHLEN, Reinhard

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German organization together so that it would be available to Bonn when they required such an organization. General GEHLEN worked during this period to achieve the legalization of his organization which was accomplished in March 1946

4. General GEHLEN has always enjoyed a personal relationship with Mr. Dulles and his immediate predecessors. Privileged communications have been exchanged.

5. General GEHLEN is married and has three daughters and a son ranging in age from the late teens to the mid twenties. One of his daughters is married to his Bonn office representative. General GEHLEN appears to enjoy relatively good health despite a gall bladder or liver condition. He does not drink nor smoke. It is expected that he will continue in his present position for several more years before he chooses to retire. He lives in a house on Lake Starnberg some ten miles south of Munich. He lives there in as inconspicuous a manner as possible as is his characteristic of conduct of official matters.

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22 March 1962

General Reinhard Gehlen
President of the Bundesnachrichtendienst

Dear General Gehlen,

I wish to extend to you on the occasion of your sixtieth birthday my sincere congratulations. A real milestone has been reached and with my congratulations I send best wishes for your good health and continued success. I look back with great pleasure on our meetings during the past years and the opportunity they afforded for us to renew our friendship and I trust the future will afford us similar occasions.

Cordially,

Richard Helms

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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