

18 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, [redacted]

SUBJECT: 19/16

KGB Activities Involving Germany

Approved for Release A
70-14
Historical Collections
Division
Date: 06-05-2013

DATE OF INFORMATION: Prior to December 1961

1. The information below has been provided by [redacted], a former KGB officer whose bona fides has been established and who is considered usually reliable. This information was given in the course of discussions concerning other subjects and supplements Source's replies to specific questions on Germany on which you are already aware. Any action taken on the basis of this report must be coordinated with Chief, SR/CI. Any question on this matter may be directed to [redacted].

2. On the eve of the Berlin crisis, perhaps in connection with the erection of the Berlin Wall /August 1961/, the illegal support officers in the KGB residency in Helsinki were instructed to provide KGB headquarters with about 20 letter drops in the near future. Source believes that about 15 had already been submitted by December 1961. A variety of KGB agents and contacts were used as letter drops for this project. Emphasis was placed on establishing contact with agents in West Germany through such letter drops in Finland since KGB headquarters realized that aggravation of the Berlin crisis could cause communications difficulties with agents in Germany /Commint/. Presumably the KGB felt that a serious Berlin crisis would disrupt the normal communication channels between agents in West Germany and the KGB residency in East Berlin/.

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Source also surmised that since the erection of the Berlin Wall the KGB has probably shifted meetings with agents in Germany from East Berlin to other countries, such as Austria, Finland, Belgium, Denmark, Italy and Switzerland, and provided them with accommodation addresses in these countries. More KGB illegals and couriers may also have been sent to Germany from Austria and France. There would, however, be fewer personal meetings with agents, since it would be more difficult to travel to third countries.

[REDACTED]

4. Source recalls that the state security service made several plans for the assassination of /Ukrainian emigre leader/ Stepan BANDERA, starting as far back as 1946 or 1947. At one time a woman was sent on such a mission, but she defected to the West. After BANDERA's assassination /in 1959/, the KGB disinformation group in Berlin/Karlshorst spread the rumor that the BND was responsible. When this version was discredited after the defection of the real assassin, Bogdan STASHINSKIY, a disinformation group produced Stepan LIEBHOLZ, who stated that some years ago he had been instructed by the BND to poison BANDERA. The intent of this operation was to weaken the significance of STASHINSKIY's revelations and again cast suspicion on the BND.

5. The Disinformation Department of the KGB First Chief Directorate (foreign directorate) was responsible for the campaign to denigrate /former West German Refugee Minister/ Dr. Theodor OBERLAENDER, and Hans GLOBBE /West German State Secretary of Federal Chancellery 1953/.

6. The KGB is very active among Baltic emigre circles in West Germany. It has successfully recruited some agents and it has effected some defections from these circles.

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