

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Acting Director
 Thru : C - Mr. Browne *M.B. MA*
 FROM : P - Mr. John M. Ansoacher

DATE: 17 March 1953



SUBJECT: Youth-Escapée Project

1. Out of a chance meeting with GER's Montenegro this afternoon came the following ideas concerning the Gen. Smith proposal for a youth-escapee program. Apparently because of some clash in personalities between himself and Ausland, Montenegro told me, these points are not likely to be impressed upon Gen. Smith in the briefing paper being prepared for him by Ausland for Thursday's PSB meeting. We will know better when we get a copy of that paper tomorrow.

2. In any event, I think these arguments should be kept on the table at Thursday's meeting, in order to ease the way towards a reconciliation between State's support for the idea and the CIA objections of it .. on policy grounds:

a. ratification of the Contractual Agreements and the EDC Treaty by the Bundestag on Thursday will move the Federal Republic one large step closer to some kind of military force. This fact should make the youth-escapee program more palatable to Defense (which holds the most likely purse-strings, now, according to ODMS), and in turn might make it possible for Defense to pressure CIA to back down a step or two.



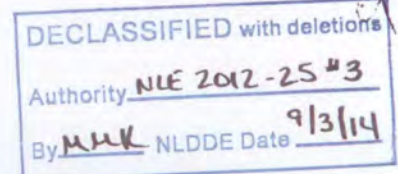
c. such young men (or women) who are withdrawn from their families and friends in East Germany under this program would leave behind them a trail of tradition and sentiment. In other words, for every youth who was induced to escape under this plan, a vestige of two, three, or four individuals would remain in the East .. all with a stake in the West, and thus more susceptible to resistance and subversion influence.

d. so far as the impact of the plan on the West German economy is concerned, Montenegro points out that as long as we induce anyone in this male-youth group to escape, we might as well induce the skilled ones (and this is in keeping with a provision of D-21, as Gen. Smith points out) thus adding to the already-short West German skilled-manpower pool, not overburdening it.

3. Item: If Mayor Rauter gets to see Allen Dulles, the CIA position might well be affected in State's favor, too.

cc - Mr. Cox

NONE/UNKNOWN



1091 Memorandum