

Munich, 13 December 1961 (Research and Evaluation - r.r.g.) -

The Soviet campaign against General Adolf Heusinger began in March 1957, when Moscow Radio<sup>1</sup> accused him of being an "arch-militarist" who was jointly responsible for the "secret plans" for the Nazi attack on the USSR. This charge seems wholly credible, since at the time Heusinger was employed as Chief of the Operations Division of the High Command,<sup>2</sup> and it would have been his bounden duty to participate in its planning.

At this time, Moscow had not yet thought of its later accusation, which was once again repeated for the record at the press conference yesterday (Tass, December 12, 1961) that Heusinger "organized and conducted punitive expeditions and mass reprisals against the defenceless civilian population" - a much less likely activity for a staff officer to engage in.

The next phase against Heusinger began in 1959, when Neues Deutschland (11 February) published an article attempting to prove that Heusinger was a Gestapo informer who had betrayed the officers involved in the ill-fated 20th July plot of 1944. The reason for this was simply that Neues Deutschland had long been saying that General Speidel had betrayed Rommel to the Gestapo, and evidently its editors thought it useful to attempt to tar Heusinger with the same brush.

The idea of denouncing Heusinger for mass murder was not conceived until almost four years after the campaign against him began, when on 7th January 1961 a Minsk newspaper, "Zvyazda", charged him with "war crimes in Byelorussia."<sup>3</sup>

Zvyazda printed an alleged copy of a telegram signed by Heusinger on 16 January 1943 in which he is said to have ordered the elimination (vernichtung) of Partisans. If the copy is not a forgery, one wonders why Pravda has not seen fit to print it. The fact that Pravda has not yet done so suggests that the telegram originated in Zvyazda's offices. However there is no doubt that Hitler did in fact order that all partisans captured should

---

<sup>1</sup>March 24, quoted by A.P., London, 24 March 1957.

<sup>2</sup>UPI, December 12, 1961.

<sup>3</sup>See Neues Deutschland, 9 January 1961.

be shot (this order included even British and allied parachutists and commandos dropped wearing their own uniforms) and therefore it is certain that the instruction was issued, though by no means that it was issued by Heusinger.

This phase was further developed on 15 January 1961, when Neues Deutschland published a photocopy of a telegram supposed to have been sent by Heusinger on 7 December 1942 which was also intended to prove his responsibility for the shooting of partisans and "bandits". But here again Pravda did not see fit to repeat these allegations at the time, apparently having little confidence in its ability to prove them.

The alleged photocopy and Zvyazda's telegram would therefore seem to be, in all probability, fabrications of the forgeries center in Moscow which has supplied at least 50 "secret" documents intended to embarrass the West during the past few years.<sup>4</sup> The new allegations made in Moscow yesterday are no more convincing and no better documented than the efforts of Neues Deutschland in January this year.

---

<sup>4</sup>Guardian, January 18, 1961.