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Termination of Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit (KgU)

In mid-October, a representative of the FedRep All-German Affairs Ministry advised Bonn Base officially, that the ministry would raise no objections if CIA should wish to continue the KgU as now constituted but that the ministry is not and will not be in a position to accept any responsibility for the KgU and its activities, nor to defend the KgU publicly or before the Bundestag beyond stating that the ministry believes the KgU's current activities to be unobjectionable. The same official, who has all along evinced a cooperative attitude with regard to the KgU problem, expressed his private opinion that CIA would be well advised to terminate the KgU altogether and to transfer some of its personnel and other assets to other established West Berlin groups or agencies.

Subsequent to the receipt of the foregoing advice, Headquarters instructed the Field to terminate the KgU project altogether. Except for stating that this termination should be completed no later than the end of FY 1959, Headquarters left it to the Field's discretion how the termination is to be effected and how it should be coordinated with the appropriate FedRep authorities.

In the meantime, we have received a lengthy dispatch from Berlin Base, listing the KgU's various operational assets and recommending what disposition is to be made of each in case the project is terminated altogether. Except for minor points, Headquarters agrees with these recommendations. However, this same dispatch also states the presumption that termination proceedings are not to be initiated until CIA has been able to obtain assurances from the FedRep authorities that they will undertake to quash all outstanding legal actions pending against various KgU principals. At this point and pending further clarification from COS and BOB, Headquarters believes there is no direct relationship between the pending legal actions and the date on which the termination of the KgU is to be initiated, particularly since the persons involved were formally separated from the KgU some time ago and since it is, therefore, difficult to accept that their cases will be adversely affected by our going ahead with the termination.

Regardless of how the latter point is finally resolved, it is clear now that the KgU project will be terminated completely and that this will have been accomplished no later than 30 June 1959.

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