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SECRET TELEPOUCH			
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INDEXING - NONE	/ []	1	
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TO - CHIEF, EUR			
INFO - CHIEF OF STATION, GERMANY - CHIEF OF BASE,			
FRANKFURT - CHIEF OF BASE, BERLIN - WOCAUK			
FROM - CHIEF OF BASE, MUNICH			
SUBJECT -O POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO UTILITY			
ACTION - NONE	· .		
REF 1			
1. COMMENTING ON CURRENT SPATE OF WEST GERMAN PRESS			
ARTICLES IN REGARD UTILITY'S POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR, ON 16 AUGUST		•	
ALIAS KUEHNE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS -		17	
A. NO FIRM DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE -			
B. WORD ON TOP AUSWERTUNG LEVEL IS THAT CHANCELLOR			
KIESINGER, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON, LET IT BE		X	1.201
KNOWN THAT NO DECIUON LIKELY BE MADE BEFORE 4-6	,		
WEEKS -		•	
C. KIESINGER PLANS USE CURRENT TRIP TO TALK TO	· •		
GENERAL WESSEL IN WASHINGTON REGARDING POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT - Swd6ert D. AMBASSADOR SCHNIPPENKOETTER APPEARS TO BE THE			
TOP CIVILIAN IN THE RUNNING -	• • •	I	:
REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT (ADMIRAL) POSER TAKE			
TAKE OVER NUMBER ONE SLOT / THIS CARRIED IN FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE,			
IS AUGUST / KUEHNE SNORTED DISPARAGINGLY AND SAID 'YOU CAN		, ,	
BE ASURED HE WILL NEVER GET IT :>>	•		
F. WHILE OUTSIDERS CLEARLY HAVE BEST CHANCE, IN-			
SIDE MAN ALIA OVENDT STILL IN THE RUNNING AND IN 'SOME			•
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NAZIWAR CRIMES DISCIDENTE			
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WAYS' BEST MAN FOR THE JOB, ALTHOUGH 'HANDICAPPED' BY LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE DEPTH AND EXPERIENCE, ACCEPTING TO @ KUEHNEGO □ COMMENT. KUEHNE SEEMED RATHER RELAXED ON 2. Ľ THE POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL WESSEL TAKING COMMAND, BUT EXPRESSED LOW KEY UNCERTAINTY IF AMBASSADOR SCHNIPPENKOETTER WOULD BE THE PROPER MAN. THIS CONNECTION, HIS VIEWS ON MATTER NO DOUBT SHARPLY COLORED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF HIS OWN FUTURE. ALIASDEGENHARDT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETIRE BY SUMMER OF 1969 - NOT LONG AFTER PROBABLE REPLACEMENT OF UTILITY - AND KUEHNE ASPIRES TO TAKE OVER FULL COMMAND OF AUSWERTUNG. THIS CONNECTION, AND GIVEN CLOSE PERXNAL TIES BETWEEN KUEHNE AND WENDT, CLEAR KUEHNE BE MOST COMFORTABLE IF WENDT TOOK OVER. CONVERSELY, AND GIVEN BACKGROUND OF SOME PERSONAL AND PROFEVONAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN KUEHNE AND POSER, A POSER ASSIGNMENT WOULD FACE KUEHNE WITH REAL PROBLEMS.

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