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COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISERS

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE SOVIET-OCCUPIED ZONE
OF GERMANY

Note by the German Delegation

Following the discussions in the Political Advisers Committee of 24th February, the German Delegation is submitting herewith information on foreign students in the Soviet-occupied zone of Germany.

2. The indications on the number of students correspond on the whole to those given in the Intelligence Report No. 7937 of the State Department: "The Soviet Bloc Exchange Programme 1958".

3. Since the official authorities of the Soviet-occupied zone have not hitherto issued precise information on foreign students, the following figures cannot claim to be absolutely correct:

- (i) The latest information on the number of foreign students in the Soviet-occupied zone dates back to the end of February 1958. According to this information "more than 1,700" foreign students from "more than 40 countries" are studying at universities, colleges and technical academies of the Soviet-occupied zone.
- (ii) The following list of foreign students and undergraduates in the Soviet-occupied zone, broken down according to their country of origin, was also compiled at about the same time (Source: "Sonntag" of 2nd March 1958).

A. Soviet Bloc

(a) Soviet Union		108 students and undergraduates
(b) European People's Democracies		
Albania	51	
Bulgaria	73	
Poland	38	
Rumania	11	
Czechoslovakia	46	
Hungary	12	231 " " "

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carried forward: 339 students and
undergraduates

(c) Communist Asia:				
People's Republic of China	208			
Mongolian People's Republic	11			
North Korea	349			
North Vietnam	84	652	"	"
Students from the Soviet Bloc		991		
B. <u>Western Europe</u>				
Belgium	1			
Finland	4			
France	5			
Greece	28			
Iceland	8			
Italy	2			
Austria	7			
Switzerland	1			
Spain	5			
Cyprus	2	63	"	"
C. <u>Africa</u>				
Algeria	6			
Ghana	2			
Madagascar	1			
Nigeria	17			
Sierra Leone	1			
Sudan	28	55	"	"
D. <u>America</u>				
Brazil	3			
Ecuador	1			
Haiti	1			
Columbia	7			
Peru	2			
Uruguay	1			
USA	2	17	"	"
E. <u>Non-Communist Asia</u>				
(a) India	13			
Iran	26	39	"	"
(b) Far East				
Indonesia	32			
Japan	1	33		
(c) Middle East				
Iraq	7			
Yemen	5			
Jordan	2			
Lebanon	2			
UAR	79	95	167	students and undergraduates
Total:		<u>1,293</u>	<u>students and</u>	<u>undergraduates</u>

It appears from various statements in the press during the last year and the first few months of the current year that the government of the Soviet-occupied zone is endeavouring to an increasing extent to conclude with other countries, especially with the underdeveloped countries, agreements for foreign students to study in the Soviet-occupied zone. At the end of March 1958 it was reported for the first time that the State Secretary for matters concerning higher and technical education in the Soviet-occupied zone, Girnus, had concluded an agreement with the University Commissioner of the Republic of Indonesia, Professor Sutisno Puspongoro, during the latter's visit to East-Berlin, for the purpose of receiving a certain number of Indonesian students in the Soviet-occupied zone.

Moreover, at the end of August 1958, 20 sports students from Cairo arrived in Leipzig for a one year's course at the German Academy for Physical Education. In the autumn of 1958 18 Indian undergraduates came to the Soviet-occupied zone to prepare themselves for graduation. 20 students from the United Arab Republic arrived at the same time.

In December 1958, a delegation of scientists of the Soviet-occupied zone, while staying in Helsinki, promised the Finnish Minister of Education 5 permanent scholarships for students to be selected by the Finnish Government.

In December 1958, a delegation headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade, Karl Eckloff, arranged with the Government of Ghana at Accra that Ghana would send students (and skilled workers) to the Soviet-occupied zone for training.

At the end of March this year a delegation of university representatives of the Soviet-occupied zone visited the Republic of Iraq.

Moreover, it has become known that the Free Democratic Youth Movement (FDJ) is endeavouring to attract foreign students, in particular from the underdeveloped countries, at present studying in the Federal Republic of Germany, to transfer their studies to the Soviet-occupied zone.

- (iii) On 1st September 1956, the Council of Ministers of the Soviet-occupied zone decided to create a special Institute for Foreign Studies at the Karl-Marx University of Leipzig. This Institute is to prepare

all foreign students for at least one year both in the field of languages and in the field of professional training for future studies at universities in the Soviet-occupied zone.

According to the latest press reports of the Soviet-occupied zone there were, in March 1959 at this Institute, "more than 350" students from "more than 40 countries", including the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies, Algeria, the Republic of Sudan, Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Latin America, Jordan and others.

Foreigners are admitted to this Institute by virtue of -

- (a) agreements and arrangements with the appropriate authorities in other countries;
- (b) delegation by international "democratic" organizations;
- (c) invitations by the government of the Soviet-occupied zone;
- (d) individual applications.

As a rule, foreign students in the Soviet-occupied zone receive a scholarship from the government of the Soviet-occupied zone amounting to a minimum of 260.- East marks a month and the foreign undergraduates a minimum of 450.- East marks a month. There is no information available as to special scholarship agreements concluded with the various countries. Foreign students enjoy the same social welfare privileges as students from the Soviet-occupied zone. The majority of them live in hostels for a monthly rent of 10.- East marks. Some of the students from underdeveloped countries receive free board and in some cases they are even exempt from paying a rent. For this group of students the scholarship may be increased by DM.100.- monthly, i.e. up to DM. 300.-.

As has been reported by the students' tutors who have fled to the Federal Republic, these scholarships have been increased to this extent in order to make it possible for students to send parcels home to their families.

Since most of the foreign students, in particular those from the People's Democracies, undertake all their studies in the Soviet-occupied zone, they are very closely integrated into the usual students life of the country.

(iv) Like all students from the Soviet-occupied zone, the foreign students are also exposed to a political-ideological indoctrination on the lines of Communist ideology and party policy. Most of the students from underdeveloped countries receive an individual tutor, who is selected from the politically reliable students and screens them off against the politically unreliable students. Many students from underdeveloped countries show no particular interest in politics at the start, and it is only for the purpose of their studies that they have entered the Soviet-occupied zone. In most cases, however, they sympathise with Communism. It has, however, happened that they have come into conflict with the Free Democratic Youth Movement on account of their criticism of the onesided attempts to make academic teaching and the student's life subject to political aims. The foreign students are merged together with German students in seminar groups at the universities and colleges. The Free Democratic Youth Movement (FDJ) is endeavouring to encourage foreign students in the Soviet-occupied zone to appear frequently at public events and to speak against imperialism and colonialism and in favour of the "peace policy of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union". It has become known that some time ago Syrian students complained to their home government of attempts to make foreign students serve the objectives of the policy and propaganda as pursued by the Soviet-occupied zone.

4. Generally speaking, it should, however, be stated that efforts to win over foreign students to the political aims of the Soviet-occupied zone are hardly ever successful - as may be seen from the reports of lecturers and assistants who have fled to the Federal Republic. The danger, however, is that they are so well screened off and, therefore, adopt the views prevailing in the Soviet-occupied zone with regard to the Federal Republic that they make completely false statements on the situation and the attitude of the Federal Republic in their home countries.

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