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CONTROL COMMISSION FOR GERMANY (BRITISH ELEMENT)

SECRETARIAT

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MILITARY GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE WITH

C.C. GERMANY POL. DIV.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

20 JUL 1949

TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

RECEIVED

ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON GOOD RELATIONS

WITH THE GERMANS

GOBY

(Note by the Secretariat)

1. Circulated herewith, at Appendix 'A', is a paper on the above noted subject prepared by the Chief, Information Services Division.
2. The Conference is invited to consider the paper at its TWENTY-SIXTH Meeting on 27 July 1949.

RECO/HERCOS/FRANCOIS STANDARD DISTRIBUTION

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ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH GERMANS

This paper is based on comments and suggestions from Regional Commissioners' Offices, Political Division, Information Services Division and Education Branch. Its proposals are based on the following general considerations:-

- (a) In the new stage of the occupation it is our purpose to withdraw control in wide fields and to intensify the attempt to influence Germans towards democratic behaviour and a sympathetic appreciation of British aims and policy.

Germany is now to be allowed and helped towards greater self-determination, the final goal being full equality with other nations.

The function of the High Commission will gradually approximate to that of normal diplomatic relations.

- (b) The influence can most effectively be exercised in two ways:
- (i) By specific personal contact with Germans who are likely to play an important part in forming German opinion;
- (ii) By a general attitude on the part of every member of the Control Commission which engenders respect and confidence.

2. The detailed proposals set out below fall into two main categories:

- (a) Those which involve little more than an overhaul of present practice (as distinct from policy) in order to comply with the spirit of the Occupation Statute; and
- (b) Those which involve a reconsideration of administration policy to the same end.

Category (a) proposals are put forward in para. 3, and category (b) in para. 4 below.

3. (a) Notices implying undue Discrimination

It is agreed by all contributors to this study that the system of notices forbidding entry to Germans to premises or parts of premises should be reviewed. Expressions such as "Kein Zutritt für Deutsche" or "Für Zivilisten Verboten", or "Nur für Engländer" should be avoided. In many cases the notices are completely out of date and are commonly disregarded, so that they achieve no useful purpose and merely irritate. Such notices should be limited to what is absolutely necessary, and where entry must be formally forbidden to Germans, a neutral form such as "Zutritt nur für Befugten", or "Unbefugten kein Zutritt" etc., should be

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adopted. The wording of such notices should not be left to the discretion of junior administrative staff, who will naturally not be concerned with political implications, but might be agreed between the Regional Administrative Officer and the Regional Governmental Officer.

(b) Military Notices and Road Signs

BAOR should be requested to co-operate by overhauling their notices and road signs with a view to standardising them and bringing them as far as possible into line with current German signs and displaying them, generally speaking, in both English and German.

(c) Renaming of Buildings

While it is fitting that the Headquarters of the High Commissioner and Land Commissioners should bear English names such as "Lancaster House" "Stirling House" less important British accommodation such as messes and transit hotels might well revert to their familiar German names. This would incidentally assist the convenience of British and Allied visitors, since very few of these buildings are known to the German public by their English names. The main purpose served however would be to break down the "compound" atmosphere which tends to surround the occupation personnel.

(d) Removal of Barbed-wire Enclosures

While enclosures are clearly necessary in certain cases, it is suggested that each remaining fence should be reconsidered on its merits in relation to essential security or civil crime, and not as an unnecessary obstacle.

(c) Use of the German Language

The already established policy of requiring fluency in German as a qualification for C.C.G. personnel could be further intensified and the use of German where possible in dealing with both private and official contacts should be urged. In many cases German could with advantage be used for correspondence and in this connection the whole standard of written translation should be reconsidered. Greater importance and standing should be accorded to the work of German translators and they should be more stringently selected.

(f) Relations with German staff of C.C.G.

The many Germans employed by the C.C.G. form an important potential long-term pro-British element in the population. They are more closely in contact with the British than any other group and if their treatment is considerate and correct, they may become a widely diffused body of advocates for British civilisation. With the run-down of staff it should be possible to exercise more careful

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selection than hitherto and to retain the better types of German employees. They should be treated with the same consideration as their British equivalents. British officials who work in close contact with them should avoid unfairness and discourtesy. They should as far as possible be given similar transport facilities to those enjoyed by their British colleagues.

(g) Availability of Amenities

Users of requisitioned playing-fields and other amenities should wherever possible make them available to Germans. This is already the practice in some areas, but it should become the rule. It is important to avoid the impression that amenities are withheld from the German population but not fully utilised by occupation personnel.

It is further for consideration whether a systematic examination of Club premises should not be made with a view to eliminating clubs which are not reasonably well utilised.

(h) Introduction of Guests into Messes and Clubs

The present policy permits hospitality in Messes and in some clubs within certain limitations. In practice the use made of this permission is extremely uneven. At one end of the scale Germans are, as a matter of course, invited into some messes for a casual meal or (by a standing special administrative dispensation) to stay the night. At the other, a member of CCG was recently excluded from membership of a mess by vote of the members, on the ground that she might want to entertain Germans. Half way between these two extremes is the practice of having separate rooms or special hours or days in messes and CCG Clubs for the entertainment of Germans. At one CCG club it is permissible to invite Germans to play lawn tennis but not to swim. At another an invitation to a meal requires a week's notice, special consideration of the case by the Committee, use of a private room and provision by the host of rations to cover the meal. A facility so hedged with restrictions is obviously useless. It is suggested that a standardised and flexible arrangement should be made, and should provide for a certain minimum of casual invitations, which are often the most useful for establishing effective contacts.

4. (a) Entertainment of Germans in General

An improvement in facilities for entertaining Germans is fundamental to the creation of suitable relations. At present Officers who happen to be in married quarters are able to entertain Germans without serious difficulty and undue expense. Officers not in married quarters and married officers away from base, are severely handicapped. Arrangements for

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the entertainment of Germans in messes (see 3 (h) above) are unsatisfactory. The Anglo-German clubs are too few, often too dull and too expensive for British members.

The use of German restaurants is both forbidden and prohibitively expensive.

It is recommended that, in addition to the improvement in mess entertainment facilities proposed in para 3 (h) the following facilities should be given:

- (i) permission to entertain bona fide contacts (at the discretion of Heads of Departments) in German premises, with possibility of recovering DM expenditure;
- (ii) permission to introduce German guests into NAAFI Clubs on the same basis as non-German guests, again at the discretion of Heads of Departments;
- (iii) permission to invite individual Germans for tennis and similar amenities on British club premises. The personal and social contacts arising out of individual games may be far more useful to the present and future purposes of occupation than those from organised team games.

An excellent example of a club in the real sense is the British Press Club in Berlin, where facilities of the kind indicated above are available and in fact never abused. It is further proposed that rations should be made available for entertainment at Information Centres; this, however, raises the broad question of the character of Information Centres and should, perhaps, be considered separately.

(b) Transport

The present policy forbids the carriage of Germans in official transport. In special cases where the German passenger signs an indemnity and no extra petrol consumption is involved, exceptions may be made with previous permission. Since this ban is presumably based on insurance considerations and therefore involves finance, it may be difficult to eliminate, but it should be recorded that almost all contributors to this study regarded it as a serious obstacle to improved relations. Under this head would come an extension of CCG bus facilities allowed to German employees.

(c) Security and Administrative Restrictions

A ban still exists on the travel abroad of ex-junior ranks of the Luftwaffe. As a result two university students who were 18 and 19 years old respectively at the end of the war were, although otherwise suitable, recently prevented from accepting an invitation to England on the grounds of their ex-membership of the Luftwaffe. Recently the licensee of an important paper had his car permit withdrawn at the instigation of a junior British official on the ground that his car had been observed outside a cinema on a Sunday. It was established that he had gone to the cinema for the legitimate purpose of

reviewing a new German film, and the measure was rescinded. The peremptory manner in which action was taken without investigation caused some justifiable resentment. It is urged that security and administrative restrictions should be reduced to the minimum and applied with discretion.

(d) Cinemas, Theatres and Entertainments

These amenities have also given rise to particularly noticeable discrimination in some areas. It is suggested that the principle of segregation of Allies from Germans is abandoned not only in un requisitioned, but also in requisitioned theatres and halls. It is realised that this may meet with resistance from commercial interests.

(e) Financial Aids to Anglo-German Relations

With the advent of currency reform and the beginning of German economic recovery, a new element in Anglo-German relations has been introduced. By and large, Germans of equivalent social standing and authority to the Senior OCG grades are financially better off. This is partly because German salaries are higher in the middle income groups and partly because German business and professional classes evade income tax by means of elastic expense accounts. *

It is urged that a DM expense fund, from one source or another, be made available to help to defray the cost of bona fide DM entertainment expenses (as in para 4 (a) above), in addition to the normal sterling expense fund.

* A striking example may be found in broadcasting. A former BBC programme assistant who earned under £900 a year, was engaged by NWDR as Station Intendant at a salary of approx. DM 2000 a month, plus a liberal expense account. On his resignation, a Programme Director was appointed to replace him at a salary of between DM 1500 and 2000 a month plus expenses. This man had previously worked for OCG at Grade CO II.

(f) It is emphasised that the thing which before all others will break down the barriers between British and Germans and make possible the establishment of relations on an equal footing is the transfer of the occupation personnel to the German economy. It is urged that the date of such transfer to the German economy be advanced as far as possible.

5. Summary of Proposals

- (i) Removal or revision of notices restricting entry to Germans;
- (ii) Revision of Military Notices and Road Signs;
- (iii) Reversion to German names of British premises, apart from Headquarters;
- (iv) Removal of non-essential barbed-wire enclosures;
- (v) Extended use of German language by British personnel;
- (vi)...

- (vi) Considerate treatment of CCG German staff;
- (vii) Maximum availability of requisitioned premises to Germans;
- (viii) Greater freedom in introduction of German guests into messes;
- (ix) Permission to entertain Germans (a) in German premises, (b) in club premises;
- (x) Permission to offer Germans lifts in British transport;
- (xi) Limitation and discreet application of security and administrative measures;
- (xii) Cessation of segregation of German and Allies in requisitioned cinemas etc.;
- (xiii) IM expense funds for entertainment;
- (xiv) Speedy transfer of Occupation Personnel to the German economy.