

RESTRICTED

NOTE FOR FILE


Television Enquiry

Dieter von Specht rang from Hamburg at 12.15 today with the following information. He had been approached by Prof. Dontenwill, the former head of the Institute of Research at Hamburg Lokstedt. Apparently Dontenwill had been approached by a certain Gerry Tuck of North German Radio and Television. This man is a television specialist and a contact man for the BBC.

It appears that the BBC is doing some sort of a research project into the closure of the laboratories at Harrogate and Hamburg Lokstedt and they have contacted 10 former employees of the German Research Institute. The people who had worked there have fairly specific contracts and it appears that Tuck is getting very little information. Tuck's attitude was that the individuals concerned are being bribed to keep quiet about the reasons for the closure of the Institute. Dontenwill has written a letter to Tuck explaining the reasons for the closure and saying there was absolutely nothing to hide and no case of bribery. Tuck seems to be under the impression that information was coming out which should lead to warning clauses and other measures which the industry want to resist; by closing the Institute they would postpone the time when they have to implement these measures.

von Specht asked if there was any news about a similar enquiry this end and I said I had not heard of any but would keep him informed. I attempted to ring Dr. Felton to find out whether there was any news of a similar kind in Southampton, but nobody was available. I shall take this matter up when I go down for the conference this evening.

As well as von Specht informing us here he has asked Brückner of the German Verbandt to inform Hugh Grice of the TAC.


cc C.H. Stewart Lockhart
H.A. Morini
R. Haddon
Dr. D.G. Felton

RLOE/GFT
18.3.80.

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