

5. Statement of General Gehlen on Walter Schellenberg Story
(Post Defeat Resistance) [undated]

Statement of General GEHLEN on Walter SCHELLENBERG Story (Post Defeat Resistance)

General GEHLEN was questioned on 11 July 1952 by James CRITCHFIELD with regard to the allegation which has been made from time to time that GEHLEN had an alternative plan of action, to retreat to a southern redoubt area for the purpose of preparing to conduct resistance activities after the surrender of the German Army. A specific reference was made to the final interrogation report on Dr. Walter SCHELLENBERG [] (date unknown) which quotes SCHELLENBERG as having stated that the sudden deterioration of the military situation in Germany in the last months, before defeat did not allow German leaders time to develop any post defeat plans but that he had had certain discussions on this question with GEHLEN in March 1945. In the course of a private talk, GEHLEN had given SCHELLENBERG his opinion that military resistance would last at most about two more months and that he believed that preparations should be made for the eventuality of German defeat. In development of this theme, he had suggested that HIMMLER be urged to authorize GEHLEN and other General Staff officers to create a resistance movement along the lines of the Polish resistance organization. The upshot of the discussion, according to SCHELLENBERG, was that SCHELLENBERG had such a report prepared and personally explained GEHLEN's plan to HIMMLER. The latter declined it abruptly, however, with the statement that he did not wish to be "the first defeatist of the Third Reich."

In answer to a direct question about the truth of this report, GEHLEN stated that he had talked to SCHELLENBERG and that he had prepared a study on the Polish Resistance. He stated that the preparation of the study had been merely used, however, as a pretext for keeping in touch with Gerhard WESSEL, who had replaced GEHLEN as chief of the Fremde Heere Ost. Furthermore, the study was made for the purpose of determining from considerable confusion just what had happened in the Warsaw area which had led to the

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5. (Continued)

annihilation of the Poles, and not with the idea of establishing a similar group for operations against either the West or the East. The results of his study had proved to him rather conclusively that resistance of the type undertaken by the Poles and in similar circumstances, i.e., against armed, organized troops was useless, a view which he still holds.

(Gerhard WESSEL also has stated that GEHLEN's study was made specifically to cover the fact that certain files and personnel of the Fremde Heere Ost had been moved to the south and were there awaiting the arrival of American troops, that the pretense was maintained for the benefit of the SS that last ditch efforts were to be made by the FHO from huts and crags, under the direction of GEHLEN. On the other hand, such persons as Guenther GOLLY and Hans WINTER have alleged that there was in fact a GEHLEN plan for post defeat resistance. There does not appear to be any ready means of reconciling the two stories.)

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