

Prime Minister
C.D.P. 5
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Jp.080

Mr Powell

The Tiedge Defection

In an earlier minute I said that a damage assessment would be prepared when we had been able to obtain more information from the Germans. This has now been done by the Security Service.

2. The Prime Minister will not want to read the full report* but may wish to note the main conclusions:-

*not attached

- (a) The balance of probability is that Tiedge's decision / to defect was spontaneous, ie he had not been an East German agent for a long time before defecting;
- (b) Even if this is true, however (and the contrary possibility cannot be entirely ruled out), we must now assume that he will have passed over all matters within his knowledge to the East Germans. This would represent damage of the highest order in view of Tiedge's deep knowledge of West German counter-espionage operations. He is likely to be of exceptional value to the East Germans for years to come.
- (c) Major damage is also likely to flow from the distrust sown by the defection between the various branches of the West German Intelligence Services and between the West German and Allied Services;
- (d) Direct damage to HMG's interests is probably limited.

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PERCY CRADOCK

27 September 1985

CONDIMARON

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