

# Kiesinger Offers Data In Defense

Bonn's Candidate  
Reports on Inquiry  
By Gestapo in '44

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Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, Nov. 11—Kurt-Georg Kiesinger, the new chancellor-candidate of the Christian Democratic Union, has made public a document designed to enforce his position in the controversy over his record in the Nazi period.

The ultimate effect of this move, like the ultimate outcome of the battle over who will lead Germany as the next chancellor, remains cloudy.

The document contains purported extracts from a Gestapo investigation on Nov. 3, 1944, into the radio-political department of the Nazi Foreign Ministry. The extracts are from the denunciation of Kiesinger by an unnamed but anti-Semitic colleague in the same department.

According to the document, the denouncer charged Kiesinger and others with having blocked his own plans for anti-Semitic campaigns beamed at the United States. The accuser also charged Kiesinger with plotting to take over the German radio in order to "enter political discussions with the British."

The State Government of Baden - Wuerttemberg, of

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## Kiesinger Releases Data on Nazi Past

which Kiesinger is Minister-President, released the document yesterday on his behalf. Kiesinger evidently distributed it to CDU deputies before yesterday's vote that named him party leader because he felt that the denunciation extracts supported his claim of disillusionment with Nazi policies after 1934.

Here are some features:

- The document refers to Kiesinger's rank as "dirigent" (director) and describes him as "the former liaison man of the Foreign Ministry's radio-political department to the Propaganda Ministry and to the Reich Radio Corporation, and currently deputy chief of the department."

Kiesinger had previously described his rank in the wartime Foreign Ministry as a "scientific collaborator," a non-career junior officer. He has denied that he ever served as liaison officer between Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels.

[A spokesman for Kiesinger today called the document largely accurate, the Associated Press reported, except in identifying Kiesinger as a deputy chief and as a former liaison man. The spokesman said Kiesinger had only some of the functions of deputy chief.]

- The document showed the accuser as claiming that Kiesinger was continually blocking proposed anti-Semitic broadcasts to the United States. Kiesinger himself has indicated privately to newsmen that his radio work dealt mostly with cultural broadcasts to Rumania and other Nazi allies in Eastern Europe.

- The document states that Kiesinger planned, if the Foreign Office radio-political department were abolished, to become a director of the overseas radio under Hans Fritzsche, a commentator generally known as "the golden voice

of Goebbels."

Some observers today said this statement contradicted Kiesinger's claim to disillusionment after 1934.

The document also says that Kiesinger was "a very close personal friend" of Otto Koischwitz, the commentator on broadcasts to North America.

The Gestapo investigation from which the document derives was conducted at a high level—by an SS Obersturmbannfuhrer (equivalent to lieutenant-colonel) of the Reich State Security Office, the organization once run by Reinhardt "Hangman" Heydrich.

The investigation was conducted three months after the July 20, 1944, officers' plot to kill Hitler, a period of terror and summary justice throughout Germany. It apparently resulted in punishment of Kiesinger.

The Associated Press reported from Bonn:

Kiesinger told newsmen in Stuttgart that he was glad to have at last a document with which he could counter in black and white "impudent false rumors" about his political past.

He added, "In my opinion someone should for once have the courage to overcome these collective judgments and to say it depends on whether or not one had a clean record."

The document quoted Kiesinger's accuser as citing a Kiesinger remark about anti-Jewish propaganda: "When you think of how we are handling this question politically, you ought not to be surprised that intellectuals stay away from it." The accuser told the investigators that repeated derogatory statements about anti-Semitic propaganda led him to believe Kiesinger was inclined toward liberalism and rejected Nazi ideals in favor of reaching agreement

with the British and Americans.

### ***Bonn Is Playing Down Nominee's Nazi Past***

From News Dispatches  
West Germany's Christian Democratic government moved yesterday to play down the Nazi past of its nominee

for Chancellor, Kurt-Georg Kiesinger, and to praise his contribution to European unity.

Karl-Guenther von Hase, the government spokesman, said at a news conference that a person who knows "what Kiesinger has done for French-German relations and for the free world would not allow himself to be misled by bombast about his record."

Kiesinger told a television audience Thursday night that if elected Chancellor he would work with all his energy for European unity. "In this regard," he said, "I have the key problem—German-French relations—in view."

Newspapers backing the opposition Social Democrats reacted unfavorably to the CDU choice of Kiesinger, but most of the German press said he should disregard reproaches about his past.

Karl Marx, the editor of a weekly Jewish magazine in Duesseldorf, said Germans "would serve the world well" if they "raised their voices in favor" of Kiesinger. He said that with the "ominous gains" of the right-wing National Democratic Party, Germans could well "stretch out their hands to Kiesinger . . . to help stabilize democracy in Germany."

In New York, however, Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and John R. Slawson, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, said the nomination was "shocking" and "an affront to the millions who were brutally destroyed by Nazism."

## ***Socialists Hint Naming Of Candidate***

BONN, Nov. 10 (UPI)—The Social Democrats hinted today they may nominate their own candidate for the chancellorship of West Germany in a move apparently designed to put pressure on the Christian Democrats.

The Christian Democrats have named Kurt-Georg Kiesinger as the successor to Chancellor Erhard, who was forced to step down after his coalition government collapsed.

A meeting of the Social Democratic leadership during the day stopped short of actually nominating the party chairman, Mayor Willy Brandt of West Berlin, as its candidate for the top government post.

But the threat was obvious, and Brandt apparently believed it would be enough to force Kiesinger to invite him into a coalition.

Both of the larger parties, meanwhile, flirted with the smaller Free Democrats, who hold the balance of power in the Bundestag (lower house of Parliament) and whose support would be needed in any parliamentary vote. The Free Democrats hold 49 seats in the 496-member house. The Christian Democrats have 245 seats and the Socialists 202.