

# U.S. Won't Disclose Kiesinger Records

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The United States has quietly checked the records on the man tapped yesterday for the West German chancellorship, but the State Department has refused to make the facts public.

Unofficially, it was said here that the file now in the Allied Documentation Center in West Berlin does not reveal any Nazi party or other pro-Hitler activity beyond what was conceded this week by Kurt-Georg Kiesinger.

Officially, the State Department had only a "no comment" yesterday when asked about Kiesinger's selection after his Nazi past had been widely reported.

It was learned that the department's original intention to disclose what it knew—expressed at a lower level—was countermanded, apparently by Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

## Reason Given

The reason, officials stated, was to keep the United States from being caught in the crossfire of West German politics.

The abstract of the Kiesinger file sent here from the Berlin center shows he was a Nazi party member but does not show that he ever left the party. It shows that a "Dr. Kiesinger," presumably the same man, was on a Nazi Foreign Office organization chart in 1945 as a part of the "political-radio" section.

Kiesinger has said that he joined the Nazi party in 1933, the year Hitler came to power. He also said he served in the Foreign Office as a non-career junior officer. He denied that he had served as a

liaison officer between the heads of the Foreign Office and the Propaganda Ministry.

The Foreign Office chart in the file is subject to the interpretation that Kiesinger had some relationship with the Propaganda Ministry but the file is not definitive on this subject, according to officials who have read it.

## Full Picture Lacking

In fact, one official here commented that "the trouble is that it (the file) doesn't show enough" to give a full picture of just what Kiesinger really did do. It is the conviction of this official, however, that nothing in the file goes beyond what Kiesinger himself has said of his past.

The Berlin files are composed of Nazi documents captured at the war's end and now under control of a joint American-British-French organization. It has been closed to the public, but persons considered bona fide students of Nazi history can be granted entry.

The Washington Post sought permission to either examine the Kiesinger file or have questions answered on the basis of its contents. The Berlin officials referred the request to Washington where officials said it could not be granted.

The reasoning here appeared to be based on fear of being accused of meddling in sensitive German affairs at a moment of political crisis in Bonn rather than any desire to hide some fact that could embarrass the man selected by his Christian Democratic Party colleagues to succeed Chancellor Erhard.