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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Meeting of the "Antifa" Bloc

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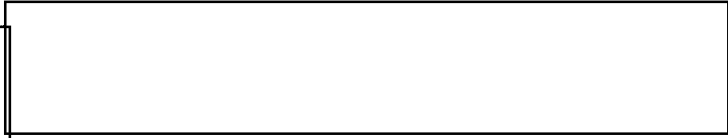
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25X1 1. Two matters were discussed at the meeting of the bloc committee of East Zone parties, held on 1 February 1950: the formation of a Central Committee of the National Front, and the situation arising from attacks against Hickmann and other leading members of the CDU.

2. It was proposed that the Central Committee of the National Front should consist of 60 members: 8 CDU, 8 LDP, 6 NDP, 6 DBP, and the rest from the SED and its mass organizations. It will be the function of the Central Committee to establish policy, i.e. to approve the measures of the government. The bloc committee, which up to now has partly fulfilled this function, will in the future limit itself to fostering inter-party cooperation and to guidance in cases of differences arising between the parties in the parliaments of the states, counties, or communities.

3. There followed a lengthy debate on the security threat existing within the CDU and LDP. Hermann Mattern touched off the discussion by announcing that he possesses additional incriminating material against CDU and LDP functionaries.

4. He was followed by Walter Ulbricht, who spoke about the Hickmann case. He denounced Hickmann for having believed that the time had come to turn pro-Western. Hickmann, he said, had believed that a policy of neutrality was possible, but there can be no neutrality towards the West, which with its military preparations is fitting for war. He said that Hentschel, CDU Landtag representative for Saxony, had come out against the law regulating farm labor simply to oppose the SED, in hopes of winning votes in the coming election. This duplicity must disappear. It can not be tolerated by the people.

5. Nuschke's statements afterwards seemed weak. Everyone had the impression that his defense of CDU members under attack was a retreat from his earlier position. Although he censured the methods used, expressed concern over mob rule, and stated that the whole affair represented an open attack on the principles of the bloc policy, he nevertheless admitted that the leaders

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of his party had not been quick enough to step in and straighten matters out.

6. Ulbricht then criticized the public thanks which the CPU executive committee had expressed to Hickmann. He suggested that in the future a meeting of bloc members should take place if a similar situation arises so that there can be a thorough discussion of the matter and an avoidance of public demonstrations. Ulbricht warned that if such a meeting were not held, there could be no guarantee that in the future the will of the people would not find expression in a similar fashion. After further discussion, it was agreed that such conferences of bloc functionaries should be organized.

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