

Former file
Subsequent file



File number
IS.
31 / 5 / 11
VOL. I

Office
FO 1056 / 440

Subject
"STANDARDER VOLKSBLAATT"
(APPOINTMENT OF LICENCE HOLDERS FOLLOWING DEATH OF MERR LIEZINSKY.)

Date of first paper	16.1.1952	Date of last paper	31.12.52
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Referred to	Folio	Date	Intd.	Referred to	Folio	Date	Intd.	Referred to	Folio	Date	Intd.
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FILE

Mr. A.L. Pope  
Wahnerheide 374

207 x 17  
31/5/1

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
(22c) XXXXXXX  
Rheinland.

16 January, 1952

9

Arno Scholz came to visit me a short time ago, and somewhat shiftily raised the issue of the future of the "Spandauer Volksblatt". Apparently Erich Lezinsky is seriously ill, and is not likely to live very much longer. This at least is what Arno Scholz thinks.

I understand that Lezinsky is determined to ensure that when he dies the "Spandauer Volksblatt" will be inherited by his son. It is this development which is now agitating Scholz because Lezinsky's son is a director of a "Berliner Gross-Schlachtereier", a position gained as a result of his marriage to the daughter of a Gross-Schlachtereibesitzer. Scholz therefore takes it for granted that the old, and I must say in the particular case of the "Volksblatt", very honourable and worthy social-democratic tradition, will be broken, and get mixed up with bourgeois butchers! Scholz thinks that this development can be avoided through the assistance of our licensing laws, under which of course a licence cannot simply be transferred from father to son without our approval. I believe moreover that the property of the Verlag "Spandauer Volksblatt" belongs to the SPD, so that Lezinsky would not find it very easy to carry out his alleged plans. At the same time I consider Lezinsky to be one of the nicest and most loyal men in Germany, and I would highly regret doing anything to upset such a good friend of Britain.

I am passing this on to you purely for your own information, and you should not start any investigation or discuss with Scholz or Lezinsky unless either of them raise the matter with you. I would however be grateful for any comments you may have, and in particular you might keep an ear to the ground for anything you might hear about it.

It may of course well be that Lezinsky's will to live will last out until licensing has passed from our hands, in which case he will have to deal with Scholz and presumably the SPD himself.

G. Turner, Esq.,  
Senior Information Services Officer,  
Information Services,  
BERLIN.

inf.  
See folio 31.4 2.



- 2 -

impression that Lezinsky owned the plant - hence his comparatively low printing costs. But there may be some mortgage. I will see what we have got in the old files and report.

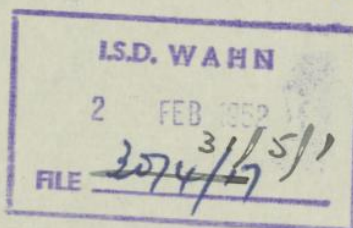
Yours  
C. J. [Signature]



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737



**CONFIDENTIAL** *(circled)*

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

*2*

18th January, 1952

*fl. 3.3.52.*

Dear

Thank you for your letter of January 16 (ISD *30/4/17*). *31/5/1*

Erich Lezinsky's left arm was amputated at the shoulder a fortnight ago - the bone had become diseased, probably following a fall when on holiday last year. Happily, he has made an excellent recovery and is full of good spirit and humour. He is hoping to return to Spandau from the nursing home this week-end. My information immediately following the operation was that it was likely to improve his general condition very considerably. He is certainly looking much better now than at Christmas. If he had not gone to hospital Arno Scholz's guess might have been right. At Christmas he looked like anything but the season.

Regarding the future of "Volksblatt", I know Lezinsky is anxious to pass on the succession to his son. But he is also perturbed by his son's lack of real interest in the newspaper. Although the son is a nice and very friendly fellow I do not think he has got the right feeling for the work. His ambition was not helped when his young and very pretty wife left him after a short marriage to run off with an older man who is at present "doing time" for offences in connection with scrap metal deals. In view of that family circumstance I don't think there is much need to worry about a butcher's holiday in Spandau. Even so, I will make a few very discreet enquiries.

What I have thought for some time to be likely out there is that Alfons Schöpflin might try to obtain an interest eventually leading to control. You will remember him with "Sozialdemokrat". Very friendly, very plausible and possessed of much energy. Since "Sozi" folded he has been with Erich Lezinsky as a kind of general manager and has gradually taken a more and more prominent part in its business affairs. Recently, according to odd conversations I have heard, he has been seeking to extend his influence into the editorial sphere. Lezinsky has apparently given him wide authority in the business generally.

Naturally I shall not raise "Volksblatt's" future with anyone until it is raised with me. Curiously, however, I had been considering whether I might sound Lezinsky out upon it when he is fully recovered. I believe it would pay him - and also help us to maintain "Volksblatt's" line if he made provision for an interest for Emil Schroder who is 99% in editorial control.

I shall have to check up on the ownership of the property. It was my firm

/impression ...

*W*

Mr. A. L. Pope,  
Press and Publicity Branch,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnheide,  
Rheinland.

*See also folder 3.*



think we should authorise changes now in the hope that they may avoid the necessity for additions later on in which we have no words.

Yours *sincerely*  
*George Turner*



CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

29th January, 1952

IS.D. WAHN

1 FEB 1952

FILE

31/5/1

Dear *Lance,*

Erich Lezinsky has now asked me if it is possible to have his son appointed as a second licence holder of "Volksblatt". He feels that after his illness he will be unable to take his past full share in the newspaper's operations and requires someone to share his responsibilities.

As stated in my letter of January 18, Kurt Lezinsky is a nice fellow. But without the backing of the family interests he would have difficulty at present in being considered for the appointment. However, in view of Volksblatt's constant support of the West and its generous presentation of the British case, there is some weight on the side of meeting his father's request.

We do not want to do anything which might lead to reduced co-operation as a result of irritation or a feeling of frustration. There is also the possibility that if the son is given more responsibility for "Volksblatt" - becoming his father's partner instead of a minor personality - his interest and stature would increase. He is now 31 and he has worked on the business side of the newspaper since it was licensed. To that extent I have shifted my former opinion on his suitability.

Before I discuss the matter in detail with Erich Lezinsky, I would value your views on the situation. Especially on the merits of the following points which I feel should be discussed with him:

- (a) An assurance on behalf of both Lezinskys that "Volksblatt" maintains its present political line (Ind SPD).
- (b) No outside capital to be admitted without our express permission.
- (c) That in view of Kurt Lezinsky's inexperience of editorial practice and policy control his father might consider including a third licence holder with experience in those fields. (It might be suggested to him that Emil Schroder - who virtually runs the editorial side - should fill that role). The financial interest of the third man need be extremely small and so not harm the family profits. From our point of view the presence of an acceptable and experienced man would be helpful.

We have to remember in dealing with this case that when licensing ends Lezinsky can take whoever he likes into partnership. Therefore I am inclined to

/think....

Mr. A. L. Pope,  
Press and Publicity Branch,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide, Rheinland.

ACTION AT 29.4.



249  
CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. A.L. Pope  
Wahnerheide 374

ISD 31/5/1

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
(22c) XXXXXX  
Rheinland.

31 January, 1952

g  
3.  
Thank you for your ISB/07/03 dated 29th January, 1952.

I must say I am rather inclined to funk the issue and see whether we can find an easy way out. On the one hand, we certainly do not want to upset Lezinsky; on the other hand, we should avoid as far as possible a dreary argument with Scholz and the S.P.D.

The ideal solution, in my opinion, would be to let the matter hang fire until Allied licensing ceases. Have you any idea how much longer this will take? I rather gathered from Scholz last time he was here, that the Senate Draft Press Law was practically complete. If therefore there is any chance of licensing being handed over in the next month or two, we could, I think, reasonably suggest to Lezinsky that he waits till then and settles the question himself. Could we not put it to him that it might be preferable to wait until the time when he can take the decision himself?

With all respect to Lezinsky, I feel that the appointment of his inexperienced son as sole licensee of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" would be wrong. Apart from his inexperience, there would be reasonable grounds for doubting that the basis on which the paper was licensed would be continued after the father's death.

If we must decide, and the young Lezinsky is accepted, then I agree with you that we ought to give a licence to Emil Schroeder and possibly one other person, say Schöpflin. This might satisfy the S.P.D.

You do not say whether you have been able to find out whether the S.P.D. have any material interest in the "Spandauer Volksblatt" Verlag. I think we ought to know this before any final decision is taken.

unl

G. Turner, Esq.,  
Senior Information Services Officer,  
(1) BERLIN,  
Fehrbelliner Platz, 4,  
Lancaster House.

FILE



glass case than put into use. We have practically pushed their noses through the glass, but we have not yet found a barge-pole long enough to make them touch it. The day will come, of course; but it is unlikely to be within the next fortnight.

f, Your letter of 31st January, regarding the gift of the license to Lezinsky Jnr., Schroeder, and one other person, possibly Schoepflin, and the satisfaction this might cause the SPD: Whether Schoepflin would satisfy them, I cannot say, and moreover I would point out that unless the suspicion that the property in effect belongs to the SPD is correct, it is none of that Party's business. Erich Lezinsky, who has been a Social Democrat since 1903, would in any case be unlikely to propose a non-SPD fellow-licensee. Unless there is indeed proprietorial interest, the less the Party has its nose in the matter and the more the present political line of independent-minded Social Democracy is pursued, the better.

5. In view of the foregoing (for whose length I apologise, but I have felt it necessary to be explicit and clear in detail), I make the following suggestions:

i, the question of ownership of or interest in the publishing-house must be satisfactorily settled. I shall appreciate your direction on how this is to be done. I shall look up the old files, such as are available, but I doubt whether I shall find anything. Therefore you may like to consider my proposals in para 4 (b) above.

ii, Lezinsky Jnr. shall be accepted in principle as a future licensee.

iii, Schoepflin shall be considered as a strong candidate for future licenseehip in view of Lezinsky's support and the fact that on DER TAG of licensing-cessation he can be brought into partnership anyway. At the same time the nature of his personality shall be studied carefully in regard to the influence it will have on young Lezinsky's inexperience and old Lezinsky's perhaps fading powers. Further, that Schroeder's antipathy to Schoepflin very likely operates the other way round as well and may therefore react unfavourably on the editorial side. And not forgetting that if the SPD has any proprietorial interest, its reaction to Schoepflin has also to be borne in mind.

iv, Lezinsky can be approached with the proposal that Schroeder also be made a licensee. My own opinion is that this will now cut little ice, though I may well be wrong. Lezinsky is a charming but obstinate man. Whether it is since Schoepflin's participation in the firm or not, relations do not appear to be good between Lezinsky and Schroeder as they have been in the past. SISO has heard both sides of the story, and the versions of fault certainly vary. At the best, I think that it might be achieved that Lezinsky would agree to take Schroeder as well as Schoepflin, but I am not sure that that is an arrangement he would accept. I do not think that talking to him about danger to the editorial side will impress him much.

v, I do not think that any arrangement we can now reach will be satisfactory to either Lezinsky or ourselves.

If Lezinsky Jnr. and Schoepflin become licencees, we may have a blow-up

/on.....



get very far with this before he went on leave. I would be grateful if you could let me know on what you base your belief that the property of the Verlag "Spandauer Volksblatt" belongs to the SPD. Should you think that Scholz may have any information about this, perhaps you would care to jog his memory delicately when he is in Bonn about 22nd February. Further, what do you think of the idea that I should write to Lezinsky and ask him whether there are indeed any mortgages or property ties? I think this could be done inoffensively by saying that it was necessary to know what commitments the proposed new licence-holders would be assuming in the partnership.

c, SISO's letter of 18th January, regarding Schoepflin: SISO's description is not only highly accurate, of course, but very discreet. I am going to express myself more bluffly. I do not dislike Schoepflin, but I do not trust him. For this I have no grounds whatever. I think it is his so obvious plausibility that gets me down. I have only heard bad about him from an enemy and good from no one. I have no reason to think that he has ever used any influence contrary to our interest. He has been a license-holder of "SOZIALDEMOKRAT" and has held since the early days a license of his own to publish books and periodicals, although he has made very little use of it. His Fragebogen is entirely clean. There is possibly one point of interest in it: his first recorded employment was from 2nd January 1928 until 23rd August 1931 with "Spandauer Volksblatt"; the reason for cessation of service was "Auf Anordnung des Vorstandes der S.P.D.". He was then a Redakteur; should he now become license-holder, the circle will be complete. And the SPD? Mud-raking is seldom pleasant or profitable.

d, SISO's letter of 29th January, regarding the points to be raised with Lezinsky: There are three of these, one of which may be taken to have been satisfied.

Lezinsky has anticipated the assurance by both him and his son that "VOLKSBLATT" shall maintain its present political line. He says in his application that by the proposed arrangement he is fully confident and pledges himself that the political and economic responsibilities and duties of his publishing-house will be maintained.

SISO's point about the non-admission of outside capital without our express permission can be put to him, if and when you approve.

SISO's view in regard to the editorial side of the matter seems to me both important and, in the circumstances as they now present themselves, critical. Emil Schroeder, as SISO has mentioned, virtually runs the editorial side; Lezinsky Jnr. is inexperienced; Schoepflin broke with his newspaper profession in June 1934 and did not return to it until June 1946, when he became business manager of "SOZIALDEMOKRAT". SISO, in his letter of 18th January, refers to Schoepflin's recent attempts to extend his influence into the editorial sphere. This is quite right and accounts for the stinking atmosphere which permeates that side of the house. It may be only in his professional capacity, but there is no doubt in my mind that Schroeder loathes Schoepflin, while equally that the latter is unofficially in a dominating position.

e, Your letter of 31st January, regarding suspension of the matter until Allied Licensing ceases: This is to my mind a mirage. Cessation of licensing is one of the Freedoms that the Senate of Berlin seems to consider so admirable that it is better in a

/glass.....



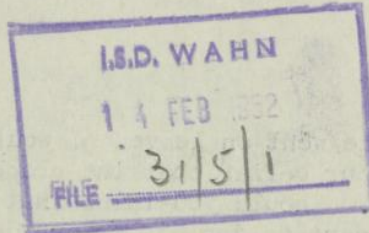
CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Phone: 86 6895

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2



13th February, 1952

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	X	14.2.52
D/P & P	X	
PUBLICITY		
PRESS	X	
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INFO CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

To: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

1. Our previous ISBE/07/03 of 18th January and 29th January and your ISD/30/4/17 of 16th January and ISD/31/5/1 of 31st January call on the subject of the Berlin VOLKSBLATT, refer.

2. In SISO's absence on leave I have been pushed into this quagmire of motives and policy. The bog has deepened to the extent anticipated by SISO's letter of 18th January. That is, I have been visited by Lezinsky Jnr. and Alfons Schoepflin and have had a letter from Erich Lezinsky requesting that the two former shall become co-licensees.

3. There is rather an atmosphere of rush about getting the matter settled, which is probably perfectly innocent but by which I do not intend to get myself swamped. On the one hand, Lezinsky Snr. and the two others plead that the business shall be concluded quickly, so that he can go on his necessary and somewhat prolonged convalescence in a tranquil frame of mind. On the other hand, there are the complications raised in the previous correspondence plus my own uncertainty in regard to Schoepflin. I have told them that I shall deal with the affair as quickly as I can, but that it entails a certain amount of consideration between Berlin and Wahnerheide. I have indicated obliquely that no final decision can be expected until SISO's return on 26th February. This does not fit too badly with Lezinsky's wish to leave Berlin at the end of the month.

4. I think it will be best if I now run over the points raised by the Wahnerheide-Berlin correspondence and add some comment:

a, Your letter of 16th January and SISO's letter of 18th and 29th January regarding Lezinsky Jnr.: You will see that SISO's judgment is that in Lezinsky Jnr.'s hands VOLKSBLATT might be butchered rather by inadvertence than nostalgia for his former profession. I share this opinion to the extent that I would damn him with faint praise. It is not that there is so much against him as that there is perhaps not quite enough for him. It is possible, as SISO suggests, that with greater responsibility his interest and his stature, and I would add his personality, will increase. There is room for it. I say this because it has a distinct bearing on the question vis-a-vis Schoepflin. It is worth remembering SISO's remarks in para. 2 of his letter of 29th January.

b, Your letter of 16th January and SISO's letter of 18th January regarding ownership of the property: SISO had not, to my knowledge, been able to

/get.....



(S.D.)  
6

# MEMORANDUM

(TO BE FILED)

TO FILE ISD 31/5/1

FROM Col. Edwards

DATE 3rd March, 1952

SIGNATURE

SUBJECT: "Volksblatt"

I visited Lance Pope last night; he is sick in bed. He told me that Arnold Scholz had been 'phoning him several times and complaining that George Turner in Berlin had written a letter to the "Volksblatt" stating that British Military Government were prepared to agree to Kurt Lezinsky and Herr Schopflin acting as temporary licencees pending either the restoration to health of Erich Lezinsky, or the termination of licensing in Berlin. Scholz further stated that the "Volksblatt" had published this letter and were "crowing" over their victory over the S.P.D.

Lance asked me to ascertain from Turner why this letter had been written, as it went back on the undertaking given by himself and Mr. Robb to Heine of the S.P.D. when they discussed this recently in Bonn. The undertaking was to the effect that we would keep out of the wrangle and leave it to be settled between the S.P.D. and Erich Lezinsky.

*Edwards*



VOIKSBLATT  
Berlin-Spandau,

33e  
7c.  
Berlin-Spandau, 29. Febr. 1952  
Lez./Pf.

Information Services Branch  
British Military Government  
(Berlin) B.A.O.R. 2,  
z.Hd. Mr. T u r n e r ,

Berlin-Wilmersdorf,  
Lancaster House

Sehr geehrter Mr. Turner!

Von dem Ergebnis Ihrer heutigen Unterredung mit meinem Sohn Kurt Lezinsky und Herrn Schoepflin bin ich eingehend unterrichtet worden.

Ich bitte meine verantwortliche Erkläerung entgegennehmen zu wollen, dass ich in der Zeit meiner Krankheit die volle Verantwortlichkeit fuer mein Aufgabengebiet als Herausgeber und Chefredakteur meinem Sohn Kurt Lezinsky und Herrn Alföns Schoepflin uebertragen habe und diese auch meine Funktionen bis und nach der Bestaetigung als Mitlizenztraeger ausueben werden. Gleichzeitig darf ich verpflichtend zum Ausdruck bringen, dass eine Aenderung in der bisherigen politischen Haltung meiner Zeitung "Volksblatt" weder beabsichtigt ist noch vorgenommen wird.

Ich gebe meiner Bitte und Erwartung Ausdruck, dass die Genehmigung meines Vorschlages fuer die Mitlizenztraeger recht bald eine Erledigung findet.

Mit den verbindlichsten Empfehlungen bin ich

Ihr sehr ergebener

gez. Erich Lezinsky .



COPY.

86-6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
Military Government  
Berlin (B.A.O.R. 2)

1. Maerz 1952

Herrn

Erich L e z i n s k y ,  
VOLKSBLATT,

Berlin-Spandau,  
Neuendorfer Str. 101,

Sehr geehrter Herr Lezinsky!

Ich danke Ihnen fuer Ihren Brief vom 29.v.M.

Ich bestaetige hiermit mein gestriges Telefongespraech, in dem ich zum Ausdruck brachte, dass Information Services Branch keine Einwaende gegen eine voruebergehende Uebertragung der Verantwortung fuer das "Volksblatt" auf Ihren Sohn Kurt Lezinsky und Herrn Alfons Schoepflin erhebt. Dies gilt fuer die Zeitspanne bis zu Ihrer voelligen Genesung bzw. bis zur Entscheidung ueber die Lizenzfrage.

Ich hoffe, dass diese Nachricht Sie von Ihren Sorgen befreit und dazu beitraegt, Ihre Gesundheit sehr bald vollstaendig herzustellen.

Mit herzlichsten Gruessen,

Ihr

sgd. G. Turner  
Senior  
Information Services Officer.

CT/IH.



D R A F T

32A  
7A

Dear

Further to my letter of 1 March 1952:

I have given more thought to the question of the temporary responsibility for "Volksblatt". As stated in my conversations I am convinced it would be in the interests of both your newspaper and the functions of Military Government that during any short period for which an authorisation should apply you should add to your representatives a senior member of your editorial staff.

As already indicated your two present temporary nominees have not current professional experience of the details of editorial policy direction. After serious thought I feel it is desirable such experience should figure with some authority in deliberations concerning the conduct of a newspaper in the circumstances which prompted your request. I am sure it would also help relations between the general direction of the newspaper and the editorial staff during your absence from control.

In these circumstances may I suggest you should give the matter further consideration and submit an additional name of an acceptable nominee with these qualifications. That of your present deputy editor springs immediately to mind.

I should then be much happier about the temporary direction of "Volksblatt" during the period for which an authorisation is granted. Such a nomination naturally need not have any financial implications for the permission to represent you temporarily does not in the case of any individual imply a title to become a licence holder subsequently. Any authorisation to represent the licence holder is also valid only for a short period and subject to constant review from either side.

I should be grateful for an early reply and, if you wish, will come out to Spandau to talk the matter over at your convenience.

With good wishes for your speedy recovery.

Yours



should be carried out between the SPD and Lezinsky. This I took to refer to the issue of licensing - the permanent as distinct from the short term matter. To the best of my recollection there was no reference to the inadvisability of putting anything of this in writing, although at the time I know in my own mind I never considered doing so as I saw no necessity for it. I complied later with Lezinsky's request merely in the belief that it would set his mind at rest and speed his recovery. It is now clear that it would have been better had I queried this point specifically.

Since speaking to you I have had a visit from Karl Wiegner, acting on behalf of Arno Scholz. To ease your position in Wahnerheide I was frank with him and said that while a temporary interim responsibility had been authorised it came from me and did not commit ISD on the licensing question. I also told him of Lezinsky's assurance on "Volksblatt's" policy. He was apparently relieved, believing that their licence had been amended or was likely to be amended to include Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin.

Since then I have had another visit from Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin with the allegation that the SPD are anxious to obtain an interest in or over "Volksblatt". They also said that the SPD were fully in the picture regarding the licensing application in all its stages. They did not know from what source the SPD had been informed. I pretended complete ignorance in accordance with Lance Pope's instructions that we should stay outside the ring. Among other things they said they had been told that the official SPD attitude was that neither of them would be considered as licence holders. They also said Erich Lezinsky was worried.

As regards the immediate future I realise your embarrassment, which I regret sincerely, and suggest this can be mitigated or removed as follows: That, with your permission, I tell Erich Lezinsky (preferably in writing on the lines of attached draft letter) that we would welcome an editorial representative among his temporary deputies, the letter giving us a further opportunity to indicate that the period of responsibility is definitely limited. Also that the acceptance of the representatives does not in any way concern their future position. I can, if you wish, go out and have a friendly chat with Lezinsky on the subject.

Such a letter would nullify the previous one and indicate to the SPD that the present move is only short term and no acceptance of any of the nominees as suitable licence holders.

If this is agreeable could you please telephone me so that I lose no time.

*P.S. There was no publication  
in "Volksblatt" of the dispensations.*

*G. Turner*

GT/CEM  
ENCLOSURES:

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER



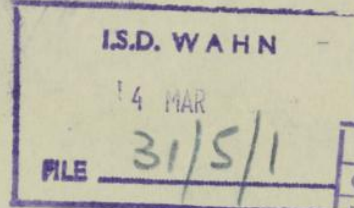
URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2



I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	X	5.3.52
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

3rd March, 1952.

To: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

Reference telephone conversation Edwards-Turner of this morning:

Last week I had various visits from and conversations with Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin in which there were reiterations of Erich Lezinsky's own telephone request to me for an early settlement of his licensing application. I refused to be hustled in this licensing question and said the decision would have to wait upon necessary consultations and reviews of the situation.

I discussed this on the telephone with Lance Pope and talked of the temporary responsibility being given to Lezinsky's nominees pending a decision. He was not happy about the nominations and we both felt that, if possible, Schroder should be included to ensure continuation of editorial policy.

On Friday I put this to Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin for the views of Erich Lezinsky whose reply was received that he did not wish to accept Schroder in that capacity although there was no intention of changing Schroder's capacity as deputy editor. I also obtained from Erich Lezinsky a written assurance that there would be no change in the policy of the "Volksblatt" which I considered was an essential of any move at all.

I telephoned Lance again on Friday and we agreed that, while it was regrettable, Lezinsky could be authorised to go ahead without Schroder - that we could not compel him to put in someone he did not want. Also that the licensing question was not affected by this decision and would be settled later.

This news was passed telephonically on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday morning Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin again called on me with a request from Erich Lezinsky for information regarding the possible duration of the time necessary to settle the licensing application. I again said I could give no specific information. They also conveyed Erich Lezinsky's request that he might have written confirmation of his authority to delegate temporarily his responsibilities. Accordingly I drafted the enclosed letter and sent it over.

Regarding my telephone conversations with Lance Pope he made it quite clear that the final settlement of the matter was one which you had decided at Wahnerheide

/should...



2B  
JIC/2F  
34  
8  
berlin b4 - 50 - 04 th1 1545a/1550a

from:- 1sb berlin from turner  
to :- 1sd wahnheide for edwards  
33A 7A

33 7 suggested alternative to my draft letter with yesterday's  
isbe 07/03 is that i tell l i find i had exceeded my personal  
authority in giving permission for longer than one month to  
which period such emergency dispensations are limited before  
review stop

message ends  
signed turner

sent ber by hand b4 .....04/3/1550a pk

rd by wahn b4.....04/3/00n

1550-gl-



16  
D/Chief  
9  
1  
c w y e - or  
wahnerheide v ber b3 20 6/3 th1 0940a  
from 1 s b-berlin from turner  
to 1 s d wahnerheide for edwards

erich lezinsky has died stop 1 will telephone you later this morning  
for instructions on entirely new licensing situation which this  
creates stop  
message ends  
Signed turner

bt hj

rd by wahnerheide.....6/3/0948a - gl -  
~~2/12/1~~



31/5/11.  
ISD-30/5/1

Note for File  
=====

10  
~~36~~

V o l k s b l a t t

Heine rang me at about midday on 6th March. After the normal expression of regret at L~~z~~insky's passing away he enquired what we were now intending to do about the licence for the Volksblatt. I told him that what we wished to avoid was making a bad decision in a hurry and for this reason we would probably have to approach the matter in two stages. We would have first to find a temporary solution which would make it possible for the paper to continue to appear. Then we would have to find a final solution which, we hoped, would be acceptable to all concerned.

I told Heine that the decision would formally be taken by Berlin, but naturally we would be consulted. He asked me therefore to inform Berlin that the SPD's attitude was as follows: -

They would like to see a Gremium of three persons who would be the present editor Schroeder, L~~z~~insky junior and one person to be nominated by the SPD. They had asked the SPD in Berlin to suggest a name for this third nominee. This Gremium of three would hold the licence as trustees for the Party as in the case of other SPD newspapers.

I asked Heine whether this was the view of the SPD Headquarters or of the SPD in Berlin, and he said that both were in complete agreement on the matter.

Heine added that Schoepflin was either on his way to Bonn or already here and intended to come to us.

Heine regretted that we had not altogether complied with the agreement reached between him and Mr. Robb and Mr. Pope last week, by which Mr. Turner would merely take note of what L~~z~~insky told him concerning alternative temporary arrangements during his illness without actually agreeing to it. I told him that this had arisen out of a misunderstanding but that in any case an entirely new situation had now arisen.

6th March, 1952.

*Lyden*



# MEMORANDUM

(TO BE FILED)

TO FILE ISD 31/5/1

FROM Col. Edwards.

DATE 6th March, 1952

SIGNATURE

SUBJECT: Licencees for the "Spandauer Volksblatt"

After discussion on the telephone with Mr. Robb, I spoke to George Turner and told him that, as a temporary measure and without prejudicing any future decision regarding the issue of licences for this paper, we agreed to Kurt Lezinsky, Schopflin and one other editorial expert being given temporary control of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" and producing it pending a final decision regarding the licensee or licensees who would be appointed to replace the deceased Erich Lezinsky.

Turner told me this was in accordance with the thought in Berlin and that the third, editorial, expert would most probably be Schroeder who is, with effect from today, acting as Chief Editor. Turner told me that he had discussed this problem with Rose and Pumfrey in Berlin and they had told him to agree with us and make any necessary arrangements for the "Spandauer Volksblatt" to continue on a temporary basis pending a final settlement of the licensee problem. He agreed to teleprint to us the text of the letter he proposed writing to the "Spandauer Volksblatt", but to avoid premature talk, he would leave the three names blank in the teleprint he sends us. I also told Turner of the message which George Bell had received from Heine of the S.P.D. on the telephone this morning and which George has recorded at Folio 426. We agreed that our temporary, acting, unofficial "care-taker government" for the "Spandauer Volksblatt", which included Schopflin, would probably not please the S.P.D., but it was the wish of the deceased licensee, made in writing and supported verbally shortly before his death, and we felt that it would be disrespectful, to put it mildly, to completely ignore his wishes at this first step.

It was agreed that the question of licensing for the "Spandauer Volksblatt" should be dealt with in two parts; the first is the proposal outlined above and which is of a purely temporary nature; the second will be the issue of licences to the finally agreed persons. In connection with this final ~~first~~ we feel, and George Turner accepts this, that the S.P.D. and Erich Lezinsky's heirs should agree between them three names and submit them to the British Military Government in Berlin.



berlin b6 200 06 th1 1425a/1430a

20

38

12

D/CHIEF

from:- 1sb berlin from turner  
to :- 1sd wahnheide for deputy chief

suggested text of letter to be addressed to all three nominees  
is quote by the death of herr erich lezinsky volksblatt is without  
a licence holder stop the recent authorisation regarding the tem-  
porary discharge of his responsibilities and the existing applicatio  
for sanction of additional licence holders become void stop

pending the appointment of a new licence holder or licence  
holders information services branch authorises the responsibili-  
ties of volksblatt to british military government to be discharged  
temporarily by herrn kurt lezinsky, alfons schopflin and w. emil  
schroder stop

this authorisation is strictly of a temporary character to  
permit publication during the period while volksblatt is without  
a licence holder or licence holders stop its issue does not  
commit information services branch to any decision when the appoint-  
ment of licence holders is determined stop unquote

possible amendment is part of third sentence which could read  
quote nominates kurt lezinsky alfons schopflin and w. emil schroder  
to discharge temporarily the responsibilities of volksblatt to  
british military government stop unquote the word authorises pre-  
supposes an application has been made on behalf of all three where-  
as we are putting schroder in stop  
message ends  
signed turner

sent ber by hand b6.....06/3/1435a pk  
rd by wahn b6.....06/3/1435 pe +

29.13

See

*In order that the Volksblatt may continue to appear in accordance  
with existing licensing regulations.*



claim \$6 - 200 - 6/3/52 TH1 1645

TELEPRINT MESSAGE

To : Turner, SISO, Berlin.

From : Deputy Chief, I.S.D., Wahnheide.

ISD/31/5/1 (.) Reference your teleprint containing draft letter regarding issue of temporary licenses for "Volksblatt" (.)

Below is a revised suggested draft. Will you please complete draft as regards correct description of the relevant Military Government Order or Law and also I suggest you should check proposed letter with your Legal Branch before issue (.)

Suggested text : quote In accordance with British Military Government Ordinance No. ...blank..., it is necessary for any newspaper appearing in the British Sector of Berlin to be licensed. As a result of the tragic death of the late licensee of the "Volksblatt" the paper does not at present comply with this Military Government Ordinance and the recent authorisation regarding the temporary discharge of his responsibilities and the existing application for sanction of additional licence holders becomes void.

In order to ensure the continuity of publication of the "Volksblatt", Information Services Branch <sup>has</sup> is prepared to grant ~~A~~ temporary licence, to expire on 30 April 1952, to Herren Kurt Lezinsky, Alfons Schopflin and W. Emil Schroder, to discharge temporarily the responsibilities of "Volksblatt" to British Military Government.

This arrangement is of a strictly temporary character and does not in any way commit Information Services Branch with regard to the final appointment of a licence holder or licence holders (.) Text ends (.)

Signed ..... Message Ends  
( I.C. Edwards )



File 25  
39  
13  
JIC/IEF  
38  
John s 6 - 200 - 6/3/52 th1 1645  
to turner, siso, berlin.  
from deputy chief, i.s.d., wannerheide.

isd/31/5/1 (.) reference your teleprint containing draft letter  
~~xxx~~ regarding issue of temporary licenses for "volksblatt" (.)

below is a revised suggested draft. will you ~~plaxx~~ please  
complete draft as regards correct description of the relevant  
military government order or law and also i suggest you should  
check proposed letter with your legal branch before issue (.)

suggested text: quote in accordance with british military  
government ordinance no. ...blank..., it is necessary for any  
newspaper appearing in the british ~~xxx~~ sector of berlin to be  
licensed. as a result of the tragic death of the late licensee  
of the "volksblatt" the paper does not at present comply with  
this military government ordinance and the recent authorisation  
regarding the temporary discharge of his responsibilities and  
the existing ~~xxx~~ application for sanction of additional licence  
holders becomes void.

in order to ensure the continuity of publication of the  
"volksblatt", information services branch is prepared to grant  
this temporary licence, to expire on 30 april 1952, to herren  
kurt lezinsky, alfons ~~xxxx~~ schoftin and w. emil schroder, to  
discharge temporarily the responsibilities of "volksblatt"  
to british military government.

this arrangement is of a strictly temporary character and  
does not in any way commit information services branch with  
regard to the final appointment of a licence holder or licence  
holders (.) text ends (.)

signed (i.c. edwards) message ends

sent wannerheide by hand 1650a - gl -  
rd by berlin .....6/3/1650a pk + ccn



lin b5 20 7/3 thi 1120a/1130a

from:- isb berlin from turner

to :- isd wahnheide for deputy chief

reference your s6 - 200 of 6 march stop temporary licence in  
all three names was accepted without objections last night  
stop

message ends

signed turner

sent ber by hand b5.....7/3/1130a pk +

rd by wahn b5.....6 7/3/1130 sg

13  
DICKIEF

40.  
114



Reference

15D 31/5/1

47.  
144  
15

Chief

SUBJECT: "Volksblatt"

The latest episode in connection with this paper, i.e. the application of Erich Lezinsky for his son to be appointed second licensee ~~holder~~ of the "Volksblatt", starts at Folio 28 in this file. The following correspondence between Lance, Turner and Kessler I had not seen until we received news of Lezinsky's death (Folio ~~339~~ 9). I obtained the file on 3rd March, read the background and have dealt with it from that date. (Folio ~~339~~ 6).

As far as we and the "Volksblatt" are concerned, the present position is satisfactory until 30th April, 1952. The S.P.D. reaction to our "provisional/temporary licensees" has not yet been received.

By 31st April, 1952 latest, we hope that the S.P.D. and Erich Lezinsky's heirs will have reached an agreement as to the licensee or licensees they will ask Military Government in Berlin to approve and appoint. George Turner is quite clear that we wish to be kept out of these S.P.D./Lezinsky heir discussions. He is, in any case, most anxious not to become involved and has been non-committal ~~when questioned~~ on the S.P.D. approach to us here in Wahnerheide, when tentatively questioned on this point by Schopflin. Turner, however, feels that Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin know quite a bit about the S.P.D. approach, and he is writing us a letter regarding his most recent talk with them.

*Ad.*

7th March, 1952.



152

16  
142

3/15/1

wahn s 4 - 60 - 6/3/52 th1 1140

6th march 1952

from :- i.s.d. wahnheide from belt

to:- g.s.i.d. foreign office london for moore

-----  
can you xxxxx

can you please pass the following message to lance p o p e :-  
"erich lizinsky of volksblatt has died. we are coping here  
with problems arising and there is no action required by you .  
i thought your party might like to have this news as they may  
wish to send messages of sympathy. regards.

george

sent wahnheide by hand ....6/3/1143 won +  
rd by confolk.....6/3/

1043 SH.



26  
py.  
wahn s 7 150

6/3/52

thi 1730

17  
43  
31/5/11

from:- lsd press and publicity branch , wahnheide from bell  
to:- information services berlin .  
-----

Lance pope asks from London that you send the following message  
to schoepflin, volksblatt :-

" herzliches beileid zum ableben erich lezinskys .  
erich brost  
fritz saenger  
Lance pope."

i would be grateful if you would pass the following message to frau  
lezinsky from me :-

" i have learnt with the deepest regret of the death of your  
husband and in common with all my colleagues who knew him in berlin  
i feel that we have lost a very good friend . i was present when  
he received his licence from the hand of general bishop in 1945  
and when i later became more closely associated with press matters  
i met him frequently until i left x berlin in 1948. i still  
treasure the letter he wrote to me at that time .

erich lezinsky's work and example have earned him a position  
of great respect and admiration in the memories of all who  
had the privilege of working with him .

i passed the said news to mr . pope who is at present in london  
and he has asked me to convey to you on behalf of himself and  
his wife and on behalf of herr brost and herr saenger who  
are with him in london the expression of their  
deepest sympathy with you in your tragic loss .  
yours very sincerely george bell "

sent wahn by hand 1735 sg

rd by berlin .....6/3/1735a pk



Volksblatt # 8/3/52 p. 2

Appendix "B"

44C

18c

### In eigener Sache

Zweckgerüchte interessierter Kreise und insbesondere die Meldung einer Westberliner Morgenzeitung haben in der Spandauer Bevölkerung den Eindruck hervorgerufen, daß das „Volksblatt“ eine Zeitung der SPD sei.

Wir erklären hierzu:

1. Seit 1933 hat es ein „Volksblatt“ nicht gegeben. Richtig ist vielmehr, daß das der SPD gehörige und in Spandau erschienene Organ „Volksblatt“ 1933 verboten wurde.

2. Am 26. Februar 1946 wurde dem jetzt verstorbenen Herrn Erich Lezinsky von der Britischen Militärregierung die Lizenz zur Herausgabe des „Spandauer Volksblattes“ erteilt.

3. Die Herausgabe des „Spandauer Volksblattes“ und die Gründung des dazu erforderlichen Verlages war eine völlig private Angelegenheit des Verlegers Erich Lezinsky, die weder von der SPD veranlaßt noch beeinflußt worden ist bzw. beeinflußt werden konnte.

4. Alle Besitzrechte des Verlages befanden sich bis zum Tode des Verlegers Erich Lezinsky in dessen Händen und gehen jetzt auf die Erbberechtigten über.

5. Wir werden künftig ohne Ansehen der Person allen Urhebern von Gerüchten, die Zweifel an den Eigentumsverhältnissen hervorzurufen geeignet sind, mit den notwendigen Rechtsmitteln entgegentreten.

Kurt Lezinsky    Alfons Schöpllin  
W. Emil Schröder



Abschrift.

Typendex "A"

44B

18B

SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHE PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS  
Landesverband Gross-Berlin

DER VORSTAND

Berlin W 35, Zietenstr. 18/Ruf 24 95 01

7.3.52

Mr. G. Turner,  
Information Services Branch,  
Office of Political Adviser (Berlin)

Mk/MSch

Berlin-Wilmersdorf,  
Fehrbelliner Pl.

Sehr geehrter Mr. Turner!

Wir duerfen Sie darauf aufmerksam machen, dass die Lizenz fuer das "Spandauer Volksblatt" Herrn Erich L e z i n s k y auf Vorschlag der Sozialdemokratischen Partei Deutschlands gegeben wurde.

Das "Spandauer Volksblatt" war bis 1933 eine sozialdemokratische Tages-Zeitung. Wir betrachten mit dem Ableben des Herrn Erich Lezinsky die Lizenz zunaechst als erloschen und setzen voraus, dass die Neuvergabe der Lizenz fuer das "Spandauer Volksblatt" wiederum vom Vorschlag der Sozialdemokratischen Partei abhaengig gemacht wird. Wir wuenschen, dass die Lizenz an drei Personen uebertragen wird, die wir Ihnen noch benennen werden. Es ist selbstverstaendlich, dass die drei Personen, denen die Lizenz uebertragen werden wird, sich gegenueber der Sozialdemokratischen Partei als Treuhaender verpflichten muessen.

Wir stehen Ihnen zu jeder Zeit zu Verhandlungen zur Verfuegung.

Der Ordnung halber moechten wir Sie noch darauf aufmerksam machen, dass wir in dieser Sache in voelliger Uebereinstimmung und staendiger Fuehlungnahme mit dem Vorstand der Sozialdemokratischen Partei Deutschlands in Bonn sind. Dieser hat bereits die zustaendigen britischen Dienststellen in Wahnerheide von unserem Standpunkt in Kenntnis gesetzt.

Mit vorzueglicher Hochachtung!

gez.: Mattick

Thiele



he will argue has nothing to do with them. He would be likely to get some support in Spandau and one does not know how far much might come in our direction.

It is unfortunate this has all occurred when the Ullstein dispute in the US Sector has excited criticism of outside pressure regarding newspaper control.

Our difficulty about Schopflin is pinning on him something more than personal feelings. Did the SPD indicate to ISD that they are able to produce really substantial evidence of his unsuitability in view of his previous acceptance as one of their licence holders for "Sozialdemokrat"? Unless they can do so it seems there may have to be some horse-trading.

As stated to D/Chief on March 7 I have mentioned the matter very briefly to the Deputy and Political Adviser but have not presented the details. Unless unforeseen circumstances arise I will not make the full report to them for the GOC - who has the final decision - until I receive your observations.



This "Telegraf" article brought reaction in "Volksblatt" on Saturday. All three temporary licence holders signed a statement (Appendix "B") that the publication of the "Volksblatt" was a private concern of Erich Lezinsky not influenced or capable of being influenced by the SPD.

At the funeral on Saturday afternoon both the clergyman and Franz Neumann, who gave the Party's funeral oration, spoke of "Volksblatt". Pastor Albertz referred to the way Lezinsky had put his personal stamp on the newspaper. Neumann spoke of how he had taken up the traditions of the old "Volksblatt".

On Friday night at a party for editors at my house Arno Scholz took me aside to refer to the licensing affair and said that while the SPD absolutely opposed Schopflin they had no objections to Kurt Lezinsky or Schroder. How far that stands after Saturday's "Volksblatt" declaration is not known.

As stated in ISBE/07/03 of March <sup>3</sup> the SPD activity in the Zone appeared to be known to Erich Lezinsky. I was in the position of having to feign lack of knowledge of any moves. For instance, when asked why we had sought information about "Volksblatt" finance and the assurance of a continued policy I told Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin that we had queries and it was essential for ISB and ISD to be clear on all matters before making licensing decisions. Much information, correct or otherwise, could reach us from our many contacts and it all had to be checked.

When delivering the temporary licensing authority letters at Spandau on Thursday night both Kurt Lezinsky and Schopflin - the first-named naturally under the emotional strain of his father's death the same day - again referred to the SPD efforts to stake a claim. It was said that this was common knowledge. Without seeing Jahne, which is obviously unwise, it is not possible to verify the allegation that on leaving "Volksblatt" ~~seemingly~~ he said neither Kurt Lezinsky nor Schopflin could become licence holders.

All that is history. The future is now important. We have the SPD letter staking their claim to nominate licence holders. We have a letter, received on Friday evening, from Kurt Lezinsky renewing the death-invalidated application of his father on behalf of himself and Schopflin. Schroder telephoned on Saturday to announce he is making a personal application for consideration.

The decision is not one which can be postponed indefinitely. I am informed that Kurt Lezinsky, as heir to the business, needs an early decision. If he was not likely to have the licence he would have to consider giving the employees a general notice by the end of March to safeguard himself against having unwanted hands on his pay roll.

How do any negotiations begin? Exactly how far are we committed by Zonal conversations? What if Lezinsky and Co. refuse to negotiate if Schopflin is excluded from consideration? If the SPD can justify their nomination claim does it carry any rights for individuals or Party to have financial interests in "Volksblatt" which has been financed by Erich Lezinsky's own efforts?

Those are some of the problems. Unless an SPD legitimate right to nominate licence holders can be established the position of Military Government may be very difficult. Or there can be embarrassment at your end.

The stumbling block to an orderly solution is Schopflin. He will fight like a Fury to get his pound of flesh. He is capable of trying to make a public scandal of SPD intervention and pressure in a matter which

/he.....



18A  
44A

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

This "Volksblatt" affair was originally a licensing problem which, despite awkward angles, offered the chance of a reasonable solution through tact and compromise. It has become a complicated matter with wider issues and the prospect of a satisfactory settlement more remote.

It began with the understandable desire of Erich Lezinsky to relieve himself of some personal responsibility from the strain of operating "Volksblatt" when his health made it necessary for him to be saved from excessive work and worry. Our problem was to give him that relief but ensure the proper conduct of the newspaper.

That dual task was made difficult by his nominations of Kurt Lezinsky and Alfons Schopflin not being wholly acceptable as additional licence holders. Kurt Lezinsky is not a strong personality and seemed likely to come under the influence of Schopflin. We felt that Emil Schroder, the Deputy Editor, was a desirable addition to balance the situation. For undisclosed personal reasons Erich Lezinsky was against him as a licence holder. Had Erich Lezinsky recovered from his illness he might have been persuaded to accept Schroder. As a sick man one could not take the risk of upsetting his health further. Our one provisionally arranged meeting at a time when he was apparently well on the road to recovery fell out on account of the King's death.

It is no use talking of what might have happened. Erich Lezinsky is dead and we have caretaker licensees until April 30. We are placed in a difficult position in Berlin by negotiations or agreements which apparently have taken place with the SPD in the Zone. We had no knowledge of these talks until they were completed and received ISD instructions to keep out of the ring and accept as licence holders the individuals put forward after negotiations between the SPD and Erich Lezinsky.

It is unfortunate we were not informed of the pattern of those talks or the decision at an early date. Also that the local SPD did not raise their concern about "Volksblatt"s" future directly with ISB. It seemed that the SPD had passed over ISB and Military Government as a licensing authority which was no more than a rubber stamp for SPD wishes and put us in the position of embarrassing ISD should there be any conflict of views.

The question appears to hinge on the exact relationship of "Volksblatt" to the SPD. The original licensing was done by ISD in 1946; there is no-one here who came to Berlin until long after that time; and no records of conditions affecting the issue. George Bell is possibly the only person in Division who might have knowledge. Erich Lezinsky always maintained there were no strings to his control but that as a life-long SPD adherent he ran the newspaper in support of the Party. His recent written declarations to ISB support those much earlier statements. The title rights position is not known here.

Although it has only now been revealed it is clear there was a cleavage of opinion about the terms on which "Volksblatt" was licensed. At Appendix "A" is the letter received from Kurt Mattick late on Friday afternoon claiming the right of the SPD to nominate the licence holders and that they would hold office only as custodians for the Party. In his tribute to Erich Lezinsky in "Telegraf" on Friday Arno Scholz paved the way with the statement: "It was not by plain chance that after 1945 Erich Lezinsky was given the licence to resurrect the old "Volksblatt" which had existed for over a century and for the past two decades had belonged to the SPD. After all, he had been the last Editor in Chief of the old "Volksblatt" which had maintained itself until the day when the Reichstag Fire was used as an excuse to do away with the Freedom of the Press and therefore all Social Democratic newspapers."

/This.....

Sorry - I haven't!  
Jh.



CONFIDENTIAL AND URGENT

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

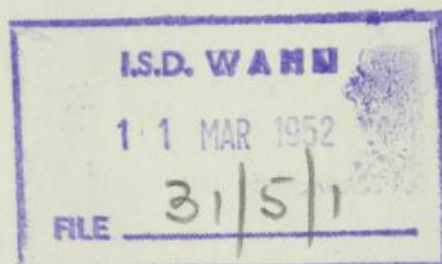
Your Ref.:

Telephone 86 6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

10th March, 1952.

To: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.



Subject: "Volksblatt" Licensing

Reference conversation Edwards-Turner of 7 March 1952.

In view of the various week-end developments I postponed this report until a full picture could be presented.

I apologise for it being extremely long but considered that you should have all relevant details together rather than piecemeal contributions.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF x	15.3.52	
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

GT/CEM  
ENC:

(G. TURNER)

SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

See my reply 12/3.

med

See folio 19

action - 22.



URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone 86 6737

I.S.D. WAHM		
11 MAR 1952		
FILE	31	51

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

10th March, 1952.

To: Office of Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

Further to my ISBE/07/03 of to-day's date:

1. This afternoon the SPD have sent a letter nominating Frau Lezinsky (the widow), W. Emil Schroder and Karl Schilling, the Burgermeister of Spandau as licence holders.
2. There is no indication whether these nominees have been approached. I have not entered into any talks or correspondence with SPD pending your views.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF		
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

GT/CEM

(G. TURNER)

SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

In my reply 12/3.

Action - 22.



Unser Vorschlag bezüglich der Personen der Lizenzträger ist entstanden, weil die Gefahr besteht, dass bei der Labilität des jungen Herrn Lezinsky die Witwe des Verstorbenen in materielle und sonstige Schwierigkeiten gerät und es daher logischer und vernünftiger ist, die Lizenz an die Witwe des Verstorbenen zu geben, insbesondere deshalb, da Herr Lezinsky jun. ja keine besseren Voraussetzungen für diese Aufgaben mit sich bringt, als sie nicht seine Mutter auch hätte.

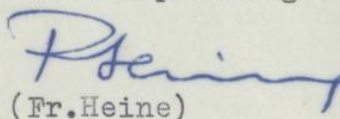
Wir schlagen ferner Herrn Bürgermeister Schilling vor, der in Spandau die überragende und über allen Parteien stehende Persönlichkeit ist und das Vertrauen aller Kreise genießt, sicher auch das Ihrer Herren. Wir glauben, dass er der stabilisierende Faktor sein kann, über den Vorschlag, Herrn Schröder zu nominieren, besteht ja Übereinstimmung.

Ich erlaube mir, darauf aufmerksam zu machen, dass wir auf das Äusserste bedauern, dass Ihr Berliner Vertreter Herrn Schöpflin die vorläufige Mitlizenz erteilt hat. Wir würden in gar keinem Fall bereit sein, unter gar keinen Umständen, einer wie immer gerichteten Regelung zuzustimmen, bei der Herr Schöpflin beteiligt wäre. Herr Schöpflin hat, wie Sie wissen, bereits den Zusammenbruch einer Berliner Zeitung verschuldet, und wir glauben nicht, dass die britischen Stellen die Verantwortung zu tragen bereit sind und in der Lage sind, ihm angesichts dieser und anderer Umstände die Mitlizenz zu erteilen.

Ich wäre sehr dankbar, wenn Sie dieser Angelegenheit vordringlich behandeln. Wir haben heute gehört, dass grössere Kündigungen zur Abwendung des Konkurses von Seiten der neuen "Volksblatt"-Lizenzträger ausgesprochen worden sind. Uns scheint äusserste Eile geboten zu sein. Wir bitten Sie deshalb, im Sinne unserer Vorschläge zu handeln.

Mit bester Empfehlung !

Ihr

  
(Fr. Heine)



31/5/1 20

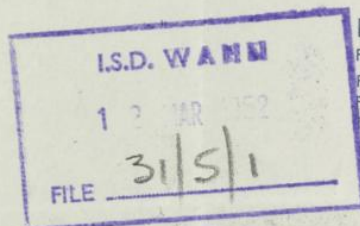
# SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHE PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS

## DER PARTEIVORSTAND

Mr. Robb

Wahnerheide

BEOR 19.



BONN, 8. März 1952.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-ALLEE 170

He/Bo

Fernsprecher 37 654 - 59

Fernschreiber-Nr. 089890

Telegr.-Adr. Sopade Bonn

Rev'd 11/3

Ms.  
enah  
173.

Sehr geehrter Herr Robb !

Ich höre zu meinem Bedauern, dass Sie bettlägerig sind und hoffe, dass es sich um eine recht bald vorübergehende Erkrankung handelt.

Die Situation in Berlin um das Spandauer "Volksblatt" zwingt uns, an Sie in diesem Augenblick heranzutreten und Ihre Intervention zu erbitten. Entgegen der Absprache zwischen Mr. Pope und mir und entgegen dem Sinne der Aussprache, die Sie, Mr. Pope und ich hatten, hat Ihr Berliner Vertreter nach den mir zugegangenen Informationen an die Herren Lezinsky, Schöpflin und Schröder eine vorläufige Lizenz bis zum 30. April erteilt.

Ich lege hiermit namens der Sozialdemokratischen Partei Deutschlands gegen diese vorläufige Lizenzerteilung Protest ein und bitte Sie dringend, diese Lizenzerteilung rückgängig zu machen. Wir sind unter gar keinen Umständen bereit, eine derartige Massnahme anzuerkennen und ihr zuzustimmen.

Ich darf Ihnen auch im Namen meiner Berliner Freunde vorschlagen, dass Sie eine vorläufige oder endgültige Lizenz unter folgenden Bedingungen aussprechen bzw. aussprechen lassen:

- 1.) Als Lizenzempfänger
  - a) die Witwe des verstorbenen Herrn Lezinsky, Frau Margarete Lezinsky,
  - b) Herrn Chefredakteur Emil Schröder,
  - c) den Spandauer Bürgermeister, Herr Karl Schilling.
- 2.) Die Lizenz unter der gleichen Voraussetzung zu erteilen, wie sie die uns nahestehenden Zeitungen in der Bundesrepublik haben: das heist, dass die Lizenzempfänger als Treuhänder der Sozialdemokratischen Partei ihre Funktion übernehmen und durchführen.

Rev'd 21/5

- 2 -



7/28

Information for the  
U.S. High Commission in Germany  
Berlin, Germany  
August 1948

100-100000-1000

100-100000-1000  
100-100000-1000

In all the circumstances I consider that your protest is unjustified, and I maintain the hope that it will be possible for your representatives in Berlin to reach agreement with the representatives of the owners of the "Volksblatt" in terms acceptable to us.

M. A. ROBB

M. A. Robb

Copy to: M. Turner.



ISD/31/5/1

21  
478  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnheide,  
Rheinland.

12th March, 1952

*Al.*  
*13.3.52.*  
I received only yesterday your letter of March 8th about the "Volksblatt" of Spandau.

When Mr. Pope and I discussed this matter, and other matters, with you on February 27th I stated that, at this stage of developments in Germany, we would hope to avoid being placed in a position where we might be obliged to seek to impose a solution of the question of licensing this paper on any of the parties concerned. I said that the ideal solution for us would be if the owners and managers of the newspaper, and the officials concerned of the S.P.D. in Berlin, could arrive at an agreed solution, which we could then formally bless. Such a procedure would I think be in line with the former practice in the Zone as you describe it.

However, the subsequent death of Mr. Lesinsky placed before us the immediate necessity of enabling the "Volksblatt" to carry on. The temporary licence to which you refer was granted by Mr. Turner to ensure the continued appearance of the "Volksblatt" after the death of the sole licensee. As Mr. Bell told you on March 6th, the problem had to be approached in two phases: first an immediate solution and secondly a permanent solution, to be arrived at after due consideration of all aspects of the case. The temporary authorisation concludes with these words:

"This arrangement is of a strictly temporary character and does not in any way commit Information Services Branch with regard to the final appointment of a licensee holder or licensee holders."

I agree with you that it is urgently desirable that agreement should be reached on the issue of a permanent licence for the "Volksblatt". The urgency is in fact rendered the greater by the fact that the issue of notice to some members of the staff of the "Volksblatt" is being considered by Mr. Lesinsky junior, as a measure of self-protection in case the owners of the newspaper might find future action prejudiced by outside interference. It is desirable that, if possible, agreement on future licensing should be reached before the end of this month at the latest.

I do not believe that you have taken fully into account the legal factors involved. Neither we, nor our office in Berlin, which is primarily concerned with this matter, has seen any evidence in support of a claim by the S.P.D. to any ownership interest in the newspaper, and this is in any case a legal matter which, it appears to me, should be settled in negotiation with the other parties concerned.

I would also stress that, as I have said above, this is primarily a matter for the appropriate authorities in Berlin. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Turner in Berlin, and he has our instructions to deal with this matter with all possible urgency. In our opinion however, and I am sure that you will agree, it would be unwise to arrive urgently at a wrong decision which might lead to difficulties later.

Herr Fritz Heine,  
SPD, BOWW,  
Friedrich Ebert Allee 170.

/ In all ....  
FILE



Wahnerheide 360

ISD/31/5/1

12th March, 1952

13.  
Mr. Bell.  
Pl. sent  
copy with my  
comps. mad.  
✓

With reference to your two letters of March 10th about the "Volksblatt", I received yesterday a letter from Heine protesting against the issue of a temporary licence, and recommending the three persons you name as permanent licence holders. I enclose a copy of my reply to Heine. You will receive separately a copy of his letter to me.

You will see from my reply that the S.P.D. have no firm undertaking from us whatever that we will necessarily meet their wishes, although naturally, as I told Heine, we would prefer not to run directly counter to their wishes if we can avoid this. We only got dragged into this because first Scholz and then Heine pursued Lance Pope actively over a long period. I went to see Heine to raise other matters and Lance came with me to discuss this matter. I am sorry that we did not put you in the picture at the time.

In referring the matter back to Berlin we are trying, not to pass the buck to you, but to put it where it belongs. Please regard the enclosed letter as guidance to you.

G. Turner Esq.,  
Information Services,  
(1) BERLIN-Wilmersdorf,  
Fehrbelliner Platz 4,  
Lancaster House.

13.3.52.  
M.A. ROBB

FILE



SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHE PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS

DER PARTEIVORSTAND

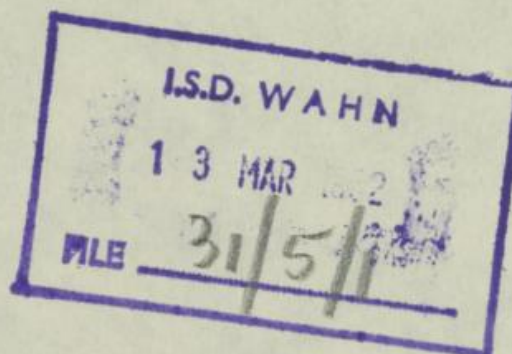
~~4/5~~  
23

Mr. Bell

BONN, 10. März 1952.  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 170 He/Bo  
Fernsprecher 76 54-59

Wahnerheide

-----  
BEOR 19



Sehr geehrter Mr. Bell !

In der Anlage sende ich Ihnen Kopie meines  
Briefes vom 8. März an Mr. Robb. Ich bit-  
te um Kenntnissnahme.

Hochachtungsvoll !

*Fr. Heine*  
(Fr. Heine)

*Sent to Hoover 13/3*



**VOLKSBLATT**

ERICH LEZINSKY  
VERLAG UND BUCHDRUCKEREI GMBH  
BERLIN - SPANDAU, NEUENDORFER STRASSE 101

Telefon: Sammel-Nr. 37 43 21

Bankkonten:

Berliner Bank AG., Dep.-Kasse 21

Spandau, Konto-Nr.: 21/7447

Sparkasse der Stadt Berlin-West,

Spar- und Girokasse 81,

Konto-Nr.: 480

Hessische Bank, Frankfurt/Main,

Konto-Nr.: 50 895

Postscheckkonto: Berlin-West Nr. 23 03

GESCHAFTSLEITUNG

Bln.-Spandau, den 10. März 1952  
Schö./Pf.

Information Services Branch  
British Military Government  
(Berlin) BAOR 2  
z.Hd. Mr. T u r n e r

Berlin-Wilmersdorf  
Lancaster House

Sehr verehrter Mr. Turner!

Ich bitte Sie, Mr. Lance Pope und den Herren Erich Brost und Fritz Sänger unseren Dank für die herzliche Anteilnahme anlässlich des Ablebens unseres Seniorchefs zu übermitteln.

Mit verbindlichen Empfehlungen

**Erich Lezinsky**  
Verlag und Buchdruckerei GmbH

(Schöpflin)





Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone 86 6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2



11th March, 1952.

Dear

*Lence*

Attached letter of thanks for your message of sympathy was received to-day.

Yours

*G. Turner*

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

*on return.*

Mr. A. L. Pope,  
Press and Publicity Branch,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide, Rheinland.

*AS*  
*G. u. to Mr. Pope 17/3*



Reference

31/5/1

~~5/15~~  
22

Acim 13/3

- (1) no agreement from with Schöpfer
- (2) cons
- (3) competition (primarily also  
entering court).

? no urgency  
Tunns after accepting Schöpfer  
(said against instructions).  
widow's interests. Son, Schöpfer  
Schneider acceptable.

Beginning 1st: Both matter to be  
agreed then forward from.

ps



# MINUTE SHEET

Reference

ICD 3/5/1

26

Confidential

Minute for record

Spandauer "Volksblatt"

Copy to :

Mr. Turner

I called yesterday on Mr. Heine at the S.P.D. headquarters, with the double intention of reinforcing my letter of March 12th (which he had received) and of smoothing any feathers which it might have ruffled.

2. No feathers appeared to be ruffled, but Mr. Heine maintained that the S.P.D. felt very strongly about the matter. In their view the original willingness of our Berlin office to make Schoepflin a licensee, and the issue of a provisional licence to him compromised severely the future position. Mr. Heine said that, for example, Schoepflin might quite well take steps which would be very prejudicial to the interests both of the "Volksblatt" and of Lezinsky's widow. It was largely the concern of the S.P.D. for the widow's welfare which had led them to include her among their proposed licensees. Incidentally Mr. Heine confirmed that all three of their proposed licensees had expressed willingness to serve.

?

||

wrong.

||

3. Mr. Heine also suggested that there need have been no urgency in issuing a provisional licence. I said that I was no expert in Berlin licensing procedure, but that my understanding was that no paper should appear at any time unless a licensee or licensees existed, and Mr. Heine admitted that I might be right (as I was).

4. Mr. Heine said that there appeared to be only three solutions :

A typical German approach to negotiations

||

(i) An agreement between the two parties, which he regarded as out of the question as long as Schoepflin remained in the picture; the S.P.D. would be willing to accept Schoepflin, and could easily come to terms with him.

(ii) Court proceedings.

Will they get a trial Gov. licence?

→

(iii) "Competition" - I understand this to be a possibility under consideration by the Berlin S.P.D., which might entail a rival "Volksblatt", and I pointed out that this alternative would presumably also lead to court proceedings.

5. Mr. Heine professed to share my anxiety to avoid court proceedings, but to feel that they might be inevitable in the light of the assumed impossibility of reaching agreement.

Good.

6. At the beginning of our meeting and again at the end, I stressed once again that this was a matter for Berlin which we wished to see settled as the result of local agreement between the parties concerned.

17.3.52.

mad

M.A. Robb

14th March 1952

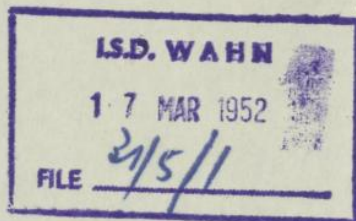
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Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

You Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737



pp please  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

14th March, 1952.

Dear Mr Robb

22.  
Thank you for your letter of 12 March which I appreciate very much for its frankness and your personal understanding of our position. I am also very grateful for the clarity of your letter to Heine. We and he have now no doubt at all about our united front and Berlin's responsibilities.

We shall now do our best to get on promptly with the local effort to sort out the "Volksblatt" affair in the smoothest possible way although it is not now the easiest matter to achieve a completely satisfactory solution.

I am making a new review of the situation and will report for your observations and any help you are able to give us as negotiations proceed or new factors emerge.

Yours

sincerely  
G. Turner

(G. TURNER)

M. A. Robb to see on return 19/3

M. A. Robb, Esq.,  
Chief, Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnheide,  
Rheinland.

I. S. D.		INIT.	DATE
CHIEF			
D/CHIEF			
D. & P.			
PUBLICITY			
REPS			
NEWS ROOM			
D. PUBLICATIONS			
GENERAL OFFICE			
INT. CENTRES			
COMM. DIVISIONS			



(g) She has not expressed any views upon W. Emil Schroder

3. Regarding 2(f). It was obvious the Lezinskys' are aware of SPD interests and intentions and Havenrichter said his view was that Frau Lezinsky would not entertain any appointment of SPD figures. He said that three efforts had been made by the SPD this week to have a talk with her but she had not complied.

4. He also put forward information to support allegations of SPD efforts to obtain an interest or control of "Volksblatt" (This will follow later)

5. We are seeing him again on Monday. Would it be in order to indicate the wisdom of Frau Lezinsky meeting SPD representatives. I think he should be told that but I am anxious to avoid I.S.B. becoming an actual physical referee in the fight as chairman of meetings. That would be impossible.

6. The talk has cleared the air in some degree and during the weekend I hope to evolve some equations which might have the seeds of settlement. I will send these on for your comment.

*G. Turner*

G. TURNER  
Senior Information Services Officer

*See form 55, para. 3.  
tel.*



Our Ref.: 18BE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone:

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
/CHIEF		
D. P. & P.		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D. PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INT. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)

BAOR 2

15th March, 1952

To: Office of the Chief  
Information Services Division  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) WAHNERHEIDE,  
Rheinland

I.S.D. WAHN

17 MAR

FILE

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

Reference conversation Edwards-Turner of 13th March, 1952:

1. A good part of yesterday afternoon was spent on an exploratory talk with Dr. Havenrichter, the Lezinsky family lawyer, who has been given power of attorney. No opinions were expressed on our side and no information was volunteered by us. Havenrichter understanding that we were concerned with fact finding.

2. The following useful information was obtained:

- (a) Frau Lezinsky inherits the estate of Erich Lezinsky with Kurt Lezinsky as reversionary legatee.
- (b) The publishing house at Spandau is the property of the Erich Lezinsky GmbH with 75% of the shares in his name and 25% belonging to Kurt Lezinsky.
- (c) The GmbH is bound up almost inextricably with the "Volksblatt" as they were developed side by side by Erich Lezinsky, each depending on the other for their economic existence. Without the newspaper the printing plant would be too big for local requirements and this would place the GmbH in an impossible position.
- (d) Frau Lezinsky wishes to be a licence holder (she ranks for full consideration as she is principal owner of the plant, has the same political views as her husband and is fully acquainted with his conduct of the newspaper and the business)
- (e) She is anxious to see his nomination of Kurt Lezinsky and Alfons Schopflin receive favourable consideration as licence holders.
- (f) She is not anxious to see other licence holders apart from these.

/ (g) ..



Frau Lezinsky, W. Emil Schroder, Alfons Schopflin and  
Karl Schilling

Frau Lezinsky is acceptable to both sides.

Schroder and Schilling are acceptable to the SPD.

Schopflin is acceptable to the Lezinsky interests.

This line-up provides financial control, editorial direction, business management and Party representation.

It is based on the principle of trading - the SPD acceptance of Schopflin for the inclusion of Schroder and Schilling.

The Lezinskys have two firm representatives - three if they elect to count Schroder as their man as in the previous suggestion.

Regarding the fourth man - again provided no substantial financial changes were involved - they might consent to take Schilling if he was not introduced as the SPD nominee but as Burgermeister of Spandau, thereby stressing the intimate connections of the town with its own newspaper.

Although this puts in all those the SPD suggested, the stumbling block is Schopflin. If the SPD were not content with this compromise and determined to exclude him under any circumstances there would need to be something much more specific than the generalisation about his unsuitability contained in Heine's letter. We must try to avoid becoming unofficial arbiters on such an issue for allegations and counter arguments might finally end in legal action between Schopflin and the opposition.



Frau Lezinsky and W. Emil Schroder

Frau Lezinsky is acceptable to both sides.

Emil Schroder is " to the SPD with a reasonable chance of being so to the Lezinskys.

This set up would guarantee both the Lezinsky interests and the continuation of the Party line as well as meeting the SPD desire to keep Schopflin's name off the licence.

With two of their three candidates successful the SPD ought to be satisfied and would be wise to avoid insisting on the third or pressing the argument that the licence holders are only their custodians.

The chances of Schroder's acceptance by the Lezinskys are not 100% for Erich Lezinsky's death bed wishes are being ignored. (Against this Frau Lezinsky would be representing the family interests). But if the Lezinskys were not required to offer him any substantial financial share in the business and remembered that when licensing ended they could make their own nominations to their Board they would do well to agree. As a senior staff member and one of the ISB caretakers they need not regard him (irrespective of the Party's view) as a nominee of the SPD.

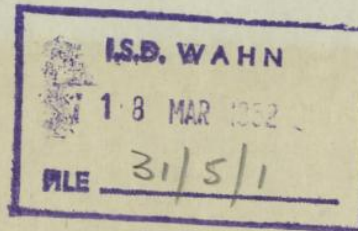
From the ISB viewpoint the weakness is that although Frau Lezinsky would control the finance she would need some business guidance.



CONFIDENTIAL 29

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03  
Yd Ref.:  
Telephone: 86 6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2



17th March, 1952.

To: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

Further to ISBE/07/03 of 15 March 1952: -28

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		19/3/52
D/CHIEF		25/3/52
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D. PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INT. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

1. It is fairly certain the nominations of each side will be unacceptable to the other. It is also clear that compromise will become very difficult if Frau Lezinsky - obviously resentful about what she feels is a stab in her husband's back by former colleagues - is adamant in refusing to meet or negotiate with the SPD.
2. In view of Scholz's question to me at the Pressekonferenz dinner on Friday it appears the SPD is hoping for us to call both parties into the ring. I am thankful to have your warning against such action. Even if it seemed the only way to get them together we could not take any open steps as that would be equivalent to recognising the SPD claims of status, so far unsupported by evidence. We shall learn more of the SPD case and expectations from to-morrow's meeting when our role will again be that of fact finding and abstention from opinion expression.
3. At the moment it does not seem we can do anything towards assisting compromise and a solution of the general headache beyond following the lines of the telephone conversation Edwards-Turner of 15 March. Therefore I propose to suggest to Havenrichter that when the SPD approach Frau Lezinsky again he would not lose anything by meeting their representatives and hearing what they had to say.
4. If the two sides do get together of their own accord and turn to us for advice I have evolved two suggested compromise groupings (attached) aimed at pleasing both parties as far as possible. If there is no meeting or no agreement they might be a basis for the decision we shall be compelled to take in Berlin.

*George Turner*

GT/CEM  
ENCLOSURES:

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER



30

12

31/5/11

86

D. Miller

met. 24/3

wahnerheide v ber b4 140 24/3 thi 0955/1000a  
to ins-d wahnerheid e for deputy chief  
from i s b bermilgov  
date: 24 march

following is extract from erik regers leading article in sundays  
tagesspiegel(.) quote the recently deceased publisher of the  
spandauer volksblatt, erich lezinsky, was an old socialdemocrat  
to whom party wrongheadedness was distasteful(.) he directed  
his newspaper accordingly and so long as he lived the spd did  
not venture to interfere(.) now, after his death, they traxxx  
they try and gain influence on the newspaper(.) were spandau in  
the federal republic there would not be the slightest possibility  
of legacy hunting(.) in the special position of berlin only the  
dead man held the license(.) it has now expired with his death(.)  
accordingly the spd can direct at the licensing officials an attempt  
to get a party functionary licensed(.) the british authorities  
have placed before them the difficult question whether with their  
permission a formerly soberminded, undoctinaire, and not in  
the least devoutly party directed newspaper is to become  
a party property(.) unquote(.)

ends

sent ber by hand 1005a hj

rd by wahnerheide.....24/3/1007 sg



file: 31/5/1

10  
Killing ~~31~~  
~~57~~

Wahnerheide v ber b3 10 26/3 th1 0925a  
to: i s d wahnerheide for deputy chief  
from: i s b bermilgov  
date: 26 march

copy of volksblatt brief sent to office of chief last night(.)

ends

bt hj

rd by wahnerheide.....26/3/0925 pa +



C O P Y

---

Berlin-Spandau, den 8. Sept. 1950  
Ls./Pf.

Konzentration G.m.b.H.

H a n n o v e r

Odeonstr. 15/16

Werte Genossen!

Mit Brief vom 29. 8. wurde mir ein Korrekturabzug ueber eine Eintragung fuer ein Anschriftenverzeichnis saemtlicher sozialdemokratischen Verlags- und Bruckereibetriebe uebersandt. Ich halte eine Eintragung meiner Firma in dieses Verzeichnis nicht fuer wuensenswert. Wie Ihr ja wisst, bin ich kein Parteibetrieb. Im Gegenteil, ich habe hier in Spandau einen schweren Kampf zu fuehren, meine Zeitung gilt als ueberparteilich. Die Tatsache, dass ich Parteigenosse bin und auch mehrere meiner Redaktionsmitglieder, hat nur den Vorteil, dass wir auf nicht erkennbare Weise versuchen, die Ideen der Sozialdemokratischen Partei in den Vordergrund zu ruecken. Wenn meine Widersache nun entdecken, dass ich in Eurem Verzeichnis Aufnahme gefunden habe, werden sie das zum Beweiss dafuer nehmen, dass es sich beim "Volksblatt" doch um ein sozialdemokratisches Organ handelt. Ich bitte davon Abstand zu nehmen.

Auf der mitgesandten Korrektur stehe ich als Verlagsleiter verzeichnet. Das trifft nun ganz und garnicht zu. Verlagsleiter ist der Genosse Schoepflin und Besitzer des "Volksblatt" bin ich.

Mit den besten Gruessen

(signed) Erich Lezinsky



V e r h a n d e l t

zu B e r l i n , am 11. September 1947.

Vor dem unterzeichneten Notar im Bezirk des Kammergerichts zu Berlin

Dr. Friedrich-Wilhelm L u c h t

mit dem Amtssitz in Berlin-Charlottenburg, Königsweg 52,  
erschieden heute - dem Notar von Person bekannt -  
in dem Hause Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Babelsberger Strasse 40/41,  
wohin sich der Notar auf Ersuchen begeben hatte,

1. der Redakteur Arno S c h o l z ,  
Berlin - Wilmersdorf, Dillenburgstrasse 60a,
2. der Kaufmann Erich S c h m i d t ,  
Berlin - Friedrichsfelde, Enckewortweg 17,
3. der Verlagsleiter Alfons S c h ö p f l i n ,  
Berlin - Neukölln, Bürknerstrasse 20,
4. der Verleger Erich L e z i n s k y ,  
Berlin - Spandau, Neuendorfer Strasse 101.

Vorweg erklärten

der Erschienenene zu 1), dass er im nachstehenden als alleinvertretungsberechtigter Geschäftsführer der Firma "Telegraf" Verlags-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Babelsberger Strasse 40/41, für diese Gesellschaft handle,

die Erschienenenen zu 2) und 3), dass sie im nachstehenden als gemeinsam vertretungsberechtigte Geschäftsführer der SPD-Verlags-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung, Berlin W.30., Kurfürstendammstrasse 57, für diese Gesellschaft handeln,

der Erschienenene zu 4), dass er im nachstehenden als alleiniger Inhaber der Firma Spandauer Volksblatt Erich Lezinsky, Berlin-Spandau, Neuendorfer Strasse 101, für diese Firma handle.



Als Dr. Kurt Schumacher am 20.2.1946 nach Berlin kam, wurde von ihm mit Mr. Steel ueber die Lizenz des "Spandauer Volksblattes" gesprochen. Kurt Schumacher versicherte mir am gleichen Abend, dass in dem Gespraech kein Zweifel war, dass spaeter einmal / Zweifel aus dieser persoenlichen Lizenz eine solche fuer die Sozialdemokratische Partei gemacht werden wuerde. Es bestand ferner kein Zweifel darueber, dass das Wiedererstehen des "Volksblattes" ein Teil der Restitution sein sollte, auf die die Sozialdemokratische Partei Anspruch erheben koenne.

(signed) Arno Scholz



ARNO SCHOLZ

Herausgeber des

TELEGRAF

326  
Berlin-Grünwald, den 22. 3. 1952  
Bismarckplatz  
Telefon: 977921

An den  
SPD-Landesverband

Berlin W 35  
Zietenstrasse 18

Auf Ihre Aufforderung, Ihnen Angaben ueber die Vorgeschichte des "Spandauer Volksblattes" zu machen, teile ich Ihnen mit:

Nachdem ich im Jahre 1945 Verlagsdirektor des Nachrichtenblattes der Britischen Militaerregierung "Der Berliner" wurde, zogen mich die britischen Dienststellen bei dem Aufbau von Zeitungen in Berlin als Sachverstaendigen zu. So kam es, dass Ende des Jahres 1945 mit mir ueber einen Wunsch des seinerzeitigen Kommandanten von Spandau gesprochen wurde, das "Volksblatt" ~~wiederaufleben~~ zu lassen. Der Kommandant von Spandau hatte das Wiederaufleben des "Volksblattes" oder irgendeines anderen Blattes deshalb fuer erforderlich gehalten, weil Spandau etwas abseits liegt.

Nach laengeren Verhandlungen und insbesondere nach Rueckfrage bei Dr. Kurt Schumacher begriesste dieser eine Lizenz fuer das "Volksblatt" - einer vor 1933 der SPD gehoerenden Zeitung - , wenn als Lizenztraeger ein Mann seines Vertrauens genommen wuerde. Daraufhin wurden Verhandlungen, die mit mehreren Lizenzgruppen gepflogen wurden, abgebrochen und nur noch mit Erich Lezinsky weitergefuehrt. Erich Lezinsky war vor 1933 einer der fuehrenden Redakteure des "Volksblattes". Dr. Kurt Schumacher war einverstanden, dass, wenn Lezinsky die Lizenz erhaelt, auch der Titel "Volksblatt" Verwendung finden koenne.

Unmittelbar vor der Lizenzerteilung fuer das "Volksblatt" hiess es, dass die Lizenz an Herrn Erich Lezinsky und Herrn Dr. Bruno Doerr gegeben wuerde. Ich habe daraufhin bei dem damaligen politischen Berater des britischen Kommandanten, Mr. Steel, um eine Unterredung nachgesucht und in dieser die Bedenken von Kurt Schumacher voetragen, dass dadurch spaeter eine Umwandlung des "Volksblattes" in eine Zeitung wie vor 1933 Schwierigkeiten ergeben wuerde, weil dieser Lizenztraeger nicht der Sozialdemokratie nahesteht. Mr. Steel versicherte mir damals, dass auf diese Dinge Ruecksicht genommen wuerde. Die Lizenz wurde dann tatsaechlich am 1. Maerz 1945 auf Erich Lezinsky ausgeschrieben.

Bei Erich Lezinsky war nie ein Zweifel, dass es eines Tages zu einer Uebereinkunft mit der Sozialdemokratischen Partei kommen wird. Erich Lezinsky ist darum auch der "Konzetration" - einer Gesellschaft sozialistischer Unternehmen - beigetreten und hat damit zum Ausdruck gebracht, dass das "Volksblatt" zu dem Kreis von Zeitungen gehoert, die urspruenglich der Sozialdemokratischen Partei angehoeerten.

Ich versichere ausdruecklich, dass Erich Lezinsky vor der Lizenzverteilung mehrfach bei mir war und mir gegenueber erklarte, dass er sich als Treuhaender fuer die Sozialdemokratische Partei betrachten wuerde.

Auch dem Alterspraesidenten des Bundestages Paul Loebe gegenueber hat Erich Lezinsky - wie mir Paul Loebe ausdruecklich versicherte - zum Ausdruck gebracht, dass er sich als Treuhaender fuer die Partei betrachte.



23. It is emphasised that we should avoid making a decision which commits us to a judgment on the rights of the SPD to title in their former newspaper. If our efforts to end licensing are successful the present licence will be only a short term affair. After that the whole matter would become a German legal question as the owners of a newspaper could do whatever they wished about directors or policy.

*G. Turner*

GT/CEM

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Copy to: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnheide,  
Rheinland.



"and several of my editorial staff are Party members too, offers the advantage that we are trying to put the ideas of the Socialdemocratic Party in the foreground in an unrecognisable manner. If my opponents discover I have been included in the list they will look upon it as a proof that nevertheless 'Volksblatt' is a Socialdemocratic organ. Therefore I beg of you to omit my name."

18. Regarding financial control and history, the capital of the firm is held wholly by the Lesinsky family in the proportion of 75% by the widow and 25% by the son who is also reversionary legatee. The original capital for the founding of the newspaper in 1946 was also a purely Lesinsky undertaking without SPD money. When in September 1947 Erich Lesinsky formed a separate book printing company - to negotiate purchase of the premises from a private owner - later absorbed into "Volksblatt G.m.b.H.", the capital came in part from "Telegraf" Verlag and the Berlin SPD Verlag. He subsequently bought out their interests.

19. Although a licence is not a transferable property which can be bequeathed to heirs, it would be patently unfair and impractical to affect the Lesinskys' financial interests built up by Erich Lesinsky's capital and enterprise. At the same time there is no doubt that he owed his position as licence holder to Party support and that he conducted "Volksblatt" - although independently - along the general lines of SPD policy.

20. With compromise between the parties ruled out we have responsibility for the decision despite the privately expressed opinion of Scholz that it should go before the German Advisory Licensing Committee. That is undesirable as Scholz, at least a semi-interested party, is an official of the Newspaper Sub-Committee. The commonsense normal solution would seem to be the appointment of Frau Lesinsky as licence holder provided she gave a firm guarantee of continuing "Volksblatt" along her husband's lines - lines which raised no SPD policy objections.

21. It is not believed this would in any way satisfy the SPD who desire recognition of their claimed reversionary rights in "Volksblatt" and a majority policy control among the licence holders. Their only consolation would be the dispelling of their fears of "Volksblatt's" departure from the Party line and the elimination of Schöpflin as a licensee. From our licensing viewpoint we would be appointing a figure head who would need to rely upon her employees for the operation of the newspaper - but that is no new experience for a newspaper owner.

22. There appears only one alternative, primarily a political decision. It is that of trying to influence Frau Lesinsky to accept another licence holder of SPD connections but not an official Party nominee. Had Schilling not been compromised already he might have filled the bill in his capacity as Mayor of Spandau. Even here, ISB is convinced the Lesinsky interests would fight. Furthermore, our action, if carried to the conclusion of saying "either or", would not only be a recognition of the SPD claim, which has not been proved clearly, but would make us vulnerable as imposing a direct political control on a newspaper.

/23. It...



influence on the Lezinskys. The SPD was afraid that influence would direct "Volksblatt" to some other Party - possibly the FDP. He was not hopeful that they could reach any agreement with Frau Lezinsky. They wished to safeguard her financial interests but he could not say what financial adjustments in the way of additional capital were envisaged if SPD licence holders were introduced. Nor could he say from what source such capital would be provided. Although they had put forward Frau Lezinsky as an SPD nomination they did not consider her qualified to be the sole licence holder. The SPD was prepared to go to the highest levels to secure what was considered to be its rights to participate in the direction of "Volksblatt".

14. On March 25 Mattick submitted documents in support of his statements, the relevant one being a letter of March 22 from Scholz recalling the 1946 licensing negotiations. This implied an agreement with the Political Adviser, Mr. Steel, that in view of the future transformation of the newspaper into its pre 1933 form the licence holder could not be other than a Socialdemocrat. There was no doubt that someday "Volksblatt" was expected to come to an agreement with the SPD. That was borne out by its membership of "Konzentration" which identified it as a member of the circle of newspapers formerly owned by the Party. Dr. Schumacher after a conversation with Mr. Steel on 20 February 1946 told Scholz their talk had left no doubt about the personal licence being made into a licence for the Party later on. Erich Lezinsky had assured both Scholz and Paul Loebe that he regarded himself as a trustee for the SPD.

15. The Lezinsky contention is that "Volksblatt" was licensed without stipulated SPD commitments. Although following the broad Party lines it was conducted in an independent fashion - the relationship to the SPD being co-operative rather than subservient. In support of this contention the leading article of No 1 of 5 March 1946 begins: "The Spandauer Volksblatt will be published as the first newspaper of an unofficial and non Party Political character in the Berlin Sector of the British Occupation Zone of Germany." At the licensing ceremony four days earlier Major General W. A. Bishop, then Chief of PRISC, is recorded - under the cross-head "Ueber parteiliche Stellung" - as saying it was significant that "All British Military Government recognised Parties are united in your staff so that one can designate it as a truly democratic newspaper." In a front page featured congratulatory message in the first issue Burgermeister Munch (CDU) wrote: "The Spandauer Volksblatt will represent no predetermined political line."

16. Erich Lezinsky's intention to maintain the newspaper on its past lines was stressed by a written assurance to SISO on 29 February 1952 that the policy of "Volksblatt" would be unchanged by the appointment of his nominated additional licence holders.

17. Regarding "Volksblatt's" relationship with Konzentration G.m.b.H. a letter from Erich Lezinsky on 8 September 1950 rejected a suggestion that he appear on their register of Socialdemocratic Publishing and Printing firms. This stated: "As you know, I am no Party publishing firm ..... My newspaper is considered as non-political. The fact that I am a Party member

/and...



nominations for Frau Lezinsky, Schröder and Karl Schilling, the SPD Bürgermeister of Spandau.

8. Heine, of the Zonal SPD, sent a sharp letter of protest to ISD about the issue of the temporary licence authority, urging its withdrawal, expressing the wish to have the licensees as SPD trustees and mentioning the three names submitted by Mattick. He also attacked Schöpflin - who was incidentally one of the SPD nominated licence holders for the now defunct official Berlin Party daily "Sozialdemokrat".

9. Chief, ISD, replied firmly to Heine's letter and subsequently saw him, upholding ISB in the grant of the temporary licence and emphasising that the licensing decision was primarily a matter for Berlin Mil Gov. While agreeing that the most desirable basis for a solution would be an amicable agreement between the parties he stressed that no firm undertaking had been given by ISD that the SPD wishes on licensing would be met.

10. The SPD efforts to approach Frau Lezinsky soon began but she did not receive any of the various intermediaries who included Paul Loebe and Bürgermeister Schilling. Finally, on March 20 - on the suggestion of ISB - Dr. Hafenrichter, the Lezinsky lawyer, met Kurt Mattick to hear what the Party was seeking. On March 21 Dr. Hafenrichter informed us that Mattick had claimed the SPD right to agree on the licence holders on the grounds that "Volksblatt" was essentially an SPD newspaper as successor to that existing in pre-Nazi times. He stated their three nominees and expressed complete opposition to Schöpflin as having undue influence on the Lezinsky family. If Frau Lezinsky was not prepared to come to terms the SPD would introduce an opposition newspaper in Spandau.

11. When Frau Lezinsky was told of these proposals she refused to negotiate, expressing determination to maintain "Volksblatt" on the lines followed by her husband and a complete objection to SPD nominees being introduced as licence holders. If the Lezinskys continued to have the licence they would meet the SPD threat of a new newspaper by fighting back to the finish.

12. ISB then contacted the SPD and on March 22 there was an interview with Kurt Mattick who said they held firm to their view that "Volksblatt" was a continuation of the former SPD owned newspaper. It was only licensed personally to Erich Lezinsky - the editor until 1933 and an SPD stalwart - because in 1946 it was impossible to license direct to the Party. Lezinsky's candidature was approved by Dr. Schumacher and the SPD gave financial help. Without SPD sponsorship and support Erich Lezinsky could not have had the licence nor the newspaper the title through which it enjoyed immediate goodwill. Probably the SPD had been remiss in not having some clear undertaking from Erich Lezinsky regarding the connections and responsibilities toward the Party. But the position was well known to all concerned with the licensing in 1946 - on both the British and German side. There could be no doubt about it being a Socialist newspaper for it was a member of Konzentration G.m.b.H., the SPD co-operative association of publishing houses.

13. Mattick reiterated the generalisations against Schöpflin and his alleged

/influence...



ISBE/07/03

CONFIDENTIAL

32A.

86 6737

25th March, 1952.

To: Political Adviser.

64.  
26.4.52.

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

1. Erich Lezinsky, sole licence holder and chief editor of the Spandau newspaper "Volksblatt" (British licensed in 1946) died on March 6.
2. Before his death he had asked for his son, Kurt Lezinsky, and his business manager, Alfons Schöpflin, to be appointed as additional licence holders, ill-health necessitating some relief from his responsibilities. The relevant background information regarding these nominations was referred to ISD at Wahnerheide for comment and advice - ISB not being wholly satisfied about their joint acceptability.
3. In Wahnerheide the Zonal SPD prompted by Arno Scholz, by-passed ISB and made direct approaches to ISD on this licensing application. They put forward the claims that "Volksblatt" had clear Party connections and that its licensees should be acceptable to them. They had special objections to the appointment of Schöpflin.
4. These strongly pressed contentions led to ISD agreeing that the best course would be for the SPD to negotiate with Lezinsky in an effort to obtain mutually acceptable names for submission for licensing. Unfortunately neither Lezinsky nor ISB had pre-information. We were told subsequently that we should take no action about the licensing until the two parties had reached agreement.
5. Erich Lezinsky's death precipitated matters by leaving the newspaper without a licensee. To permit its legal publication under Military Government regulations ISB appointed Kurt Lezinsky, Schöpflin and W. Emil Schröder, the deputy editor, as temporary licence holders until April 30. This was agreed with Political Adviser and ISD.
6. In view of their nominations having been invalidated by Erich Lezinsky's death, Kurt Lezinsky and Schöpflin renewed the applications for their permanent appointment. Schröder also put in an application for consideration.
7. The day after Erich Lezinsky's death Kurt Mattick, on behalf of the Berlin SPD, wrote to ISB that "Volksblatt" was the successor to the 1933 Nazi-suppressed Spandau SPD newspaper. It was maintained that its connection with the Party should be established in future by the appointment of licence holders occupying office as trustees for the SPD. He subsequently submitted

/nominations...



CONFIDENTIAL

32

ISBE/07/03

86 6737

I.S.D. WAHN	
26 MAR 1952	
FILE	31/5/1

25th March, 1952.

To: Political Adviser.

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

Reference conversations Pumphrey-Turner:

1. Here, extracted from the ever-increasing mass of paper submitted and the large number of statements made, is the position regarding the "Volksblatt" licence.
2. There is now a note of urgency in the need for settlement. If the Lezinsky interests are dispossessed they will need to discharge a large proportion of their staff. Without the newspaper the associated printing business is not economic in its present form. Having been developed side by side the integration is so thorough that the sorting out will probably entail a general discharge order followed by re-engagements for the reduced number of workers required. The owners consider this should be done by the end of the month.
3. Whichever way the decision goes there appears to be the certainty of a first class public row of considerable dimensions and widespread repercussions. There seems little hope that the contestants can settle their differences for their viewpoints are completely opposed. Mil Gov and the licensing system will both get kicked - the latter is a good thing - but the fact remains we have to make a decision. The unfortunate factor is that there is no-one now with Control Commission who was associated with the original grant of the licence or able to disperse the lack of clarity concerning the circumstances and conditions of its issue.

*G. Turner*

*See folio 36*

GT/CEM  
ENC:

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Copy to: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

*26.4.52*



## MINUTE SHEET

Reference ISD/31/5/1

33

Minute for the record"Volksblatt"

Mr. Turner telephoned today. He asked if I had read the memorandum he had submitted to Mr. Pumphrey. I said that I had received it last night but that I had not yet read it, although we had noticed that it did not appear to contain any recommendation. Mr. Turner drew my attention to paragraph 20 : "The common-sense normal solution .....".

2. Mr. Turner said that he had discussed the matter fully with Mr. Pumphrey, and that it seemed likely that the best compromise would be to select the widow Lezinsky as licensee, plus two or three others, regarding whom there would of course be controversy. Mr. Pumphrey had suggested that it might be a good thing to consult informally the German Advisory Committee on Licensing. Mr. Turner thought that this would probably be a good thing. It would come appropriately at this moment, as the Committee have just suggested politely that they should be consulted by the Allied licensing authorities. Mr. Turner thought it unlikely that the Committee would wish to make the "Volksblatt" political in character - although the fact that Arno Scholz was Chairman of the Committee might be a difficulty.

3. Mr. Turner added that it would be impossible on present form for a decision to be reached by March 31st. He agreed however that it might be possible to persuade the widow Lezinsky and Lezinsky junior that a settlement would be reached before the expiry of the provisional licence, in which case they need not now show panic by discharging members of the staff of the paper at the end of this month.

Bl.  
26.4.52

mad

M.A. Robb

27th March, 1952.



C O P Y

ISBE/07/03

86 6737

60A 34A  
Information Services Branch,  
British Military Government,  
Berlin, B.A.O.R. 2.

29th March, 1952.

Herrn Kurt Lezinsky,  
" Alfons Schöpflin,  
" W. Emil Schröder,

"Volksblatt",  
Berlin-Spandau,  
Neuendorferstrasse 101.

---

It is sincerely regretted that it is impossible to give a decision on "Volksblatt's" licence before the end of this month. A final decision will be reached and communicated to you during April.

It is appreciated that the delay might cause some disquiet among the employees and workers. In order to allay this and to avoid any disadvantageously precipitate action concerning rearrangements of staff, Information Services extends the term of the temporary licence until 31 May, 1952.

GT/CEM

(SIGNED) GEORGE TURNER

SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER



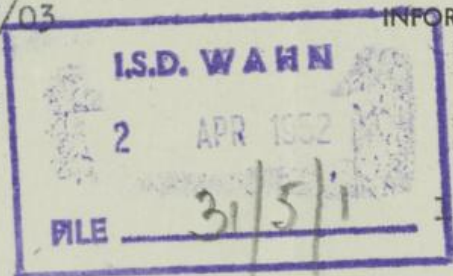
CONFIDENTIAL

34

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737



INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

1st April, 1952.

To: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

*See folio 33.*

Reference conversation Robb-Turner of 28 March 1952:

1. Attached is copy of letter sent to the temporary licence holders of "Volksblatt".
2. As stated in a/m conversation it was agreed with Political Adviser to make this extension while the advice of the German Advisory Licensing Committee was sought following on the Committee's request that they might advise the Allies on changes of licence holders in their respective Sectors.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF X	✓	✓
D/CHIEF		
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE X	✓	✓
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

GT/CEM  
ENC:

*G. Turner*

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

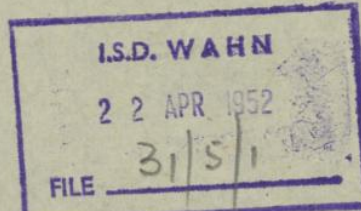
*Notified on return  
26.4.52 in mail 2/4*



CONFIDENTIAL

ISBE/07/03

86 6737



21st April, 1952.

24.4.52.

Meeting to see

see & discussed  
in Berlin yesterday.

mak. my

To: Political Adviser

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licensing

1. On Friday Hans Sonnenfeld told me that the German Licensing Advisory Committee would be unable to make their recommendation on "Volksblatt" by the end of this month. This will mean an extension of the temporary licence until May 31.
2. The reason is that the Committee is very much entangled in the Ullstein "Morgenpost" application on which the US authorities are pressing hard for a decision.
3. Sonnenfeld said the Ullstein case is one demanding complete unity among the newspaper publishers on the Committee in view of the believed tactics of "Divide and Rule". Therefore he is anxious to avoid any decision likely to cause dissension among them until the "Morgenpost" question has been settled.
4. Knowing Scholz's interest in putting forward the SPD case and his personal animosity towards Schöpflin, Sonnenfeld believes that the "Volksblatt" case may be a rather fiery episode. Especially as he believes the majority may favour acceptance of the Lezinsky faction nominations. He said it is regarded as something of a test case in the matter of licensing procedure - being the first time that death has necessitated the appointment of a new licence holder for a newspaper. It is his belief that the majority of the Committee will favour a policy of recommending that in such cases the licence goes to the approved representatives of the deceased.
5. As we have agreed to put the case before the Committee I can see no alternative to accepting the postponement request. May I have your approval for telling Hafenrichter, the Lezinsky lawyer, that it has been found impossible to give the promised decision by April 30 and that the temporary licence will be extended for one month until May 31? 30 JUNE, 52.

kl.  
21.4.52.

George Turner

GT/CEM

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Copy to: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division.



Translation.

65a  
36A.

SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHE PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS  
Landesverband Gross-Berlin

Berlin W 35,  
Zietenstr. 18,

TESTIMONIAL

Herr Alfons Schoepflin, born 19.11.1898, has been appointed publishing-house manager when the SPD-publishing-house was founded in June 1946 and been accepted as a licence holder under the conditions of the licence issued by British Military Government to the Landesverband Gross-Berlin of the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands for the publication of the daily paper "Sozialdemokrat".

Herr Schoepflin indefatigably worked for the establishment of the publishing-house. In spite of great difficulties resulting from the lack of a printing plant of its own he made it in constant progressive development an important factor of the Berlin newspaper publishing-trade. His special gift for carrying negotiations made him the speaker and mediator for the Berlin newspaper-publishing-houses at Military Government and Magistrat's offices, capable to manage several difficult situations resulting from the economic situation and currency reforms.

In view of his journalistic knowledge and abilities he was able to pass his energy to the editorial staff of the paper to the benefit of the latter.

For personal reasons Herr Schoepflin wanted to leave the publishing-house on 30 June 1949.

We wish him the best for his future.

sgd. Franz Neumann

Contents of the above copy certified correct.

Berlin-Steglitz, 18. April 1952

sgd. Dr. Hafenrichter,  
Notary public.



testimonial (copy attached) to Schöpflin's work as a licence holder and business manager of the SPD "Sozialdemokrat" has been submitted to ISB. This was signed by Franz Neumann, the SPD Chairman, when Schöpflin resigned his position in 1949. It is believed on very good authority that Neumann retains his regard for Schöpflin who has a long record of SPD service dating back to the days when his father was a member of the Reichstag. It is significant that the SPD letters on the licensing dispute lack Neumann's signature although he is still Party Chairman.

9. ISB now sees only three possible selections which are put forward here in their apparent order of desirability:

- (a) Frau Lezinsky and Schöpflin
- (b) Frau Lezinsky
- (c) Frau Lezinsky, Schöpflin and Kurt Lezinsky.

10. The introduction of Schöpflin introduces an extraneous political consideration. Is such action directly in opposition to the Party's request likely to raise unwelcome SPD bitterness against Military Government. And, if so, should such considerations be allowed to influence our decision in a matter which is strictly outside the Party political field.

11. A copy of this memorandum is being sent to ISD with a request for their early comment.

*G. Turner*

CT/CEM  
ENC:

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Copy to: Office of Chief,  
Information Services Division. ✓



CONFIDENTIAL

ISBE/07/03

86 6737



I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF	X	✓
D/CHIEF	X	✓
D/P & P	X	
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
CENTRAL OFFICE	X	✓
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

To: Political Adviser

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

1. With the breakdown of the German Advisory Licensing Committee (ISBE/07/11 of 5 May 1952 refers) and open disagreement between the temporary licence holders of "Volksblatt", it is imperative for Military Government to make an early decision on the grant of the "Volksblatt" licence.
2. The end of the Licensing Committee's activities means we lack the anticipated German guidance recommendation. Even should it be possible to resuscitate the Committee it would be a long time before any recommendation could be made.
3. The mutual irritation and distrust in "Volksblatt" between Schröder on the one hand and Kurt Lezinsky and Schöpflin on the other can only damage the newspaper if it continues unabated.
4. ISB must reiterate the opinion that the SPD claim to nominate licence holders as trustees has no legitimate grounds. As indicated in ISBE/07/03 of 25 March, "Volksblatt" has never departed from its 1946 position of being a newspaper without definite Party ties. Until the question of new licences arose there is no record of the SPD staking a claim to the direction of policy or to trusteeship. The only ownership issue involved in their present claim is that of title rights which would be for settlement by negotiation or a matter for the German courts after the end of Allied licensing.
5. It is clear that priority must be given the Lezinskys in recognition of their family ownership and control of "Volksblatt" since it was licensed. Moreover the SPD willingly conceded the justice of their interests being represented and there is the fact that all those nominated by the Lezinskys are Party supporters - although as individuals they do not all meet the strict SPD requirements.
6. Whether one or both of the Lezinskys are accepted it would be desirable to give them the support of someone with practical newspaper experience who enjoys their trust and is capable of working with them.
7. Only Schöpflin is in that category. It is with regret that ISB has to recognise that Schröder - already unacceptable to the Lezinskys on private and personal grounds - has put himself completely out of court. Although an employee of the firm he has maintained close connections and co-operation with the SPD faction - a fact known to his fellow temporary licensees.
8. Schöpflin, however, is the villain of the piece in the eyes of the SPD. There has been strong, if unspecific, allegations against him of irresponsibility in newspaper management and of political instability. But since the last report a

/testimonial.....



MEMORANDUM

(TO BE FILED)

~~66~~  
37

TO FILE ISD.31/5/1

FROM Col. Edwards

DATE 19th May, 1952

SIGNATURE

36

Reference Folio ~~65~~ in this file.

After consulting with Mr. Robb, and at his request, I telephoned George Turner and told him that we agreed the order of selection detailed in paragraph 9 of Folio ~~65~~ 36.

Turner said that the Deputy in Berlin considered that the order should be (b), (a), (c) as he felt that the grant of the licence to Schöpflin would be an unnecessary irritant in so far as the SPD in Berlin were concerned.

I told him that we were quite happy to agree with Rose as he was in closer touch with Berlin political feeling than we were.

*Edwards*



Translation

To: den SPD-Landesverband  
Berlin W. 35.  
Zietenstr. 18.

22nd May, 1952

In reply to your request for information concerning the previous history of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" I beg to inform you:

In the year 1945, after I became Managing Director of "Der Berliner" Information Sheet of the British Military Government, I was consulted as an expert by the British authorities concerning the development of newspapers in Berlin. It thus happened that at the end of 1945 I was spoken to concerning the desire of the then Commander of Spandau to revive the "Volksblatt". The Spandau Commander considered that it was necessary to revive either the "Volksblatt" or another such newspaper, since the position of Spandau was somewhat isolated.

After lengthy negotiations, and in particular after consulting with Dr. Kurt Schumacher, the latter approved the idea of a licence for the "Volksblatt" - one of the papers which belonged to the SPD before 1933 - if a man who possessed his confidence was appointed as licensee. Thereupon negotiations which had been started with several licensees' organisations were broken off and continued only with Erich Lezinsky, who was, prior to 1933, one of the leading editors of the "Volksblatt". Dr. Kurt Schumacher agreed that if a licence was granted to Lezinsky, then the title of "Volksblatt" could be used also.

Directly previous to the allocation of a licence for the "Volksblatt" it was intended that the licence should be given to Herr Erich Lezinsky and Herr Dr. Bruno Doerr. I thereupon sought an interview with Mr. Steele who was Political Adviser at that time to the British Kommandant and at the

interview I told him that it was the view of Kurt Schumacher that if this intention was carried out there would be difficulties in turning the "Volksblatt" into such a paper as it was before 1933, because the political views of this particular licence holder were not close enough to Social Democracy. Mr. Steele assured me that consideration would be given to these matters and in fact the licence was actually made out on March 1946, in the name of Erich Lezinsky.

As far as Erich Lezinsky was concerned there was never any doubt in his mind that there would eventually be an agreement with the Social Democrat Party. Erich Lezinsky therefore joined "Konzentration", an organisation of Socialist undertakings, and in addition so made it clear that the "Volksblatt" belonged to that group of newspapers which formerly adhered to the Social Democratic Party.

I can state definitely that before the granting of the licence Erich Lezinsky came to see me several times and declared to me that he would regard himself as a Trustee for the Social Democrat Party.

Erich Lezinsky also declared to Paul Loebe, the President of the Bundestag, (as Paul Loebe expressly told me himself) that he regarded himself as a Trustee for the Party.

When Dr. Kurt Schumacher visited Berlin on the 20th February, 1946 he spoke with Mr. Steele concerning the licence for the "Spandau Volksblatt". That same evening Kurt Schumacher assured me that in conversation (with Mr. Steele) there was no doubt at all that this personal licence would eventually become a licence for the Social Democrat Party. There was no doubt at all that the revival of the "Volksblatt" was looked upon as a part of the Restitution to which the Social Democrat Party could lay claim.

(signed) Arne Scholz



An  
den SPD-Landesverband  
Berlin W. 35.  
Zietenstr. 18

22.3.52/Pr.

Auf Ihre Aufforderung, Ihnen Angaben ueber die Vorgeschichte des "Spandauer Volksblattes" zu machen, teile ich Ihnen mit:

Nachdem ich im Jahre 1945 Verlagsdirektor des Nachrichtenblattes der Britischen Militaerregierung "Der Berliner" wurde, zogen mich die britischen Dienststellen bei dem Aufbau von Zeitungen in Berlin als Sachverstaendigen zu. So kam es, dass Ende des Jahres 1945 mit mir ueber einen Wunsch des seinerzeitigen Kommandanten von Spandau gesprochen wurde, das "Volksblatt" wiederaufleben zu lassen. Der Kommandant von Spandau hatte das Wiederaufleben des "Volksblattes" oder irgendeines anderen Blattes deshalb fuer erforderlich gehalten, weil Spandau etwas abseits liegt.

Nach laengeren Verhandlungen und insbesondere nach Rueckfrage bei Dr. Kurt Schumacher begriesste dieser eine Lizenz fuer das "Volksblatt" - einer vor 1933 der SPD gehoerenden Zeitung -, wenn als Lizenztraeger ein Mann seines Vertrauens genommen wuerde. Daraufhin wurden Verhandlungen, die mit mehreren Lizenzgruppen gepflogen wurden, abgebrochen und nur noch mit Erich Lezinsky weitergefuehrt. Erich Lezinsky war vor 1933 einer der fuehrenden Redakteure des "Volksblattes". Dr. Kurt Schumacher war einverstanden, dass, wenn Lezinsky die Lizenz erhaelt, auch der Titel "Volksblatt" Verwendung finden koenne.

Unmittelbar vor der Lizenzerteilung fuer das "Volksblatt" hiess es, dass die Lizenz an Herrn Erich Lezinsky und Herrn Dr. Bruno Doerr gegeben wurde. Ich habe daraufhin bei dem damaligen politischen Berater des britischen Kommandanten, Mr. Steel, um eine Unterredung nachgesucht und in dieser die Bedenken von Kurt Schumacher vorgetragen, dass dadurch spaeter eine Umwandlung des "Volksblattes" in eine Zeitung wie vor 1933 Schwierigkeiten ergeben wuerde, weil dieser Lizenztraeger nicht der Sozialdemokratie nahesteht. Mr. Steel versicherte mir damals, dass auf diese Dinge Ruecksicht genommen wuerde. Die Lizenz wurde dann tatsaechlich am 1. Maerz 1946 auf Erich Lezinsky ausgeschrieben.

Bei Erich Lezinsky war nie ein Zweifel, dass es eines Tages zu einer Uebereinkunft mit der Sozialdemokratischen Partei kommen wird. Erich Lezinsky ist darum auch der "Konzentration" - einer Gesellschaft sozialistischer Unternehmen - beigetreten und hat damit zum Ausdruck gebracht, dass das "Volksblatt" zu dem Kreis von Zeitungen gehoert, die urspruenglich der Sozialdemokratischen Partei angehoeerten.

Ich versichere ausdruecklich, dass Erich Lezinsky vor der Lizenzerteilung mehrfach bei mir war und mir gegenueber erklaerte, dass er sich als Treuhaender fuer die Sozialdemokratische Partei betrachten wuerde.

Auch dem Alterspraesidenten des Bundestages Paul Loebe gegenueber hat Erich Lezinsky -, wie mir Paul Loebe ausdruecklich versicherte - zum Ausdruck gebracht, dass er sich als Treuhaender fuer die Partei betrachte.

Als Dr. Kurt Schumacher am 20.2.1946 nach Berlin kam, wurde von ihm mit Mr. Steel ueber die Lizenz des "Spandauer Volksblattes" gesprochen. Kurt Schumacher versicherte, mir am gleichen Abend, dass in dem Gespraech kein Zweifel war, dass spaeter einmal aus dieser persoentlichen Lizenz eine solche fuer die Sozialdemokratische Partei gemacht werden wuerde. Es bestand ferner kein Zweifel darueber, dass das Wiedererstehen des "Volksblattes" ein Teil der Restitution sein sollte, auf die die Sozialdemokratische Partei Anspruch erheben koenne.

gez. Arno Scholz



COPY.

38A

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

LONDON, S.W.1.

20th May, 1952.

Rt.Hon. Anthony Eden, M.P.  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Dear Mr. Eden,

German Political Newspapers.

"Spandauer Volksblatt"

-----  
In 1945, political newspapers were first of all forbidden in Germany, as were many other claims to property from various bodies, pending a review of all claims, and, in the meantime, licenses for newspapers were issued to individuals, generally trustees of the Parties, and newsprint was allocated on the basis of Party membership and pre-Hitler ownership.

It was in these circumstances that, on the suggestion of Dr. Schuhmacher on behalf of the S.P.D. that a license was issued for the production of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" to Herr Erich Lezinsky, who, prior to 1933, had been a responsible editor of the same paper, then the official organ of the S.P.D. Herr Lezinsky, accordingly, conducted the paper subsequent to 1945 in close collaboration with, and on behalf of the S.P.D.

On 6th March 1952, following the death of Herr Lezinsky, it appears that our Information Services Branch, without consultation with the S.P.D. then issued a temporary license to three gentlemen - Herr Schöpflin, Kurt Lezinsky, and Emil Schröder. Kurt Lezinsky is the son of the previous licensee, but has no connexion with the S.P.D. and is further alleged to have little or no knowledge of running a newspaper. Herr Schöpflin, I am assured, has not the confidence of the Party.

The Berlin S.P.D. has in the meantime been seeking assurances from our Information Services Branch - Mr. Turner and Mr. Kessler - as to their ultimate rights in the newspaper but they have not, so far, obtained any such assurances. On the contrary, I am told, their impression following on their last interview with our Branch, is that the Branch no longer has the intention of recognising the rights of the Party in this paper.

I may say that I am very surprised to hear of this, as I was under the impression that we had long since settled all these claims of the various parties to Press and other properties, but apparently I was wrong. In any event, I would be grateful if you would make some enquiries into this case and let me know as soon as possible whether a license cannot now definitely be issued to the S.P.D. itself in order to dispose of the matter, or, alternatively, if for any reason this cannot yet be done, what assurances I can convey to the Berlin Section of that Party.

I am enclosing some further information that has been supplied by Herr Arno Scholz, which you will perhaps be good enough to return with your reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN HYND.



Urgent.

CONFIDENTIAL.



31/5/11.

38

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

23rd May, 1952.

My dear Michael.

I enclose a copy of a letter, together with enclosure, which John Hynd has sent to the Secretary of State and which is self-explanatory.

I should be very grateful for material enabling us to reply to this letter in the very near future.

|| I am sending a copy to George Turner in Berlin. ||

Yours ever,

John.

(J.H. Moore).

German Education & Information  
Department.

M. Robb, Esq.,  
Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
22(c) WAHNERHEIDE,  
Rheinland.

D/Chief

Pl. reply soon

mak

26/5

Action at 40.



only evidence to support basic contention in my para 1  
is the letter in german attached to john moore's note stop these  
are the recollections of an individual but we have had no documents  
support them stop

reference para 3 of letter from j.h. while true that alf  
s. has not confidence of all party committee we have good reason  
to believe this view is not shared by chairman stop however in  
view our decision this is not relevant stop *of S.P.D. (Neuman)*

reference para 4 of same letter second sentence complete-  
ly unfounded stop party representative pressed us for information  
regarding our decision and was informed that this was pending  
with absolutely no indication of its nature stop

message ends

signed turner

sent ber by hand b8.....27/5/1650a pk

rd by wahn b8.....27/5/1650 won +



File

46

D/Chief

berlin b8 - 260 - 27/5 thi 16 45a/16 45a  
from:- isb berlin from turner  
to :- isd wahnerrheide for deputy chief

reference conversation edwards-kessler of 27 may stop  
basic contention of letter is that newspaper was licensed  
and conducted on behalf of a specific party stop

there is no evidence here that it was licensed to serve that  
party's interests stop although licence was granted to late e.l.,  
a well known party personality, newspaper from first issue public-  
ly adopted position of independent journal without any political  
party ties stop the entire capital was found by and is still  
held by the licensee's family stop

until death of e.l. there was no claim to information ser-  
vices in berlin of the right of the party to custodianship stop  
nor had isb any record of complaints by party about the newspaper  
proclaiming and maintaining a non party character stop

although k.l. and alf s. nominated by late e.l. for appoint-  
ment as additional licence holders shortly before his death they  
have not been appointed stop intend to grant licence to widow  
who holds 75 per cent of capital stop she was one of the three  
persons put ~~forward~~ forward by the party for appointment  
after her husband's death stop has expressed her determination  
to continue newspaper on same lines upon which it was conducted  
by her husband stop no germans yet informed of our decision stop



23. It is emphasised that we should avoid making a decision which commits us to a judgment on the rights of the SPD to title in their former newspaper. If our efforts to end licensing are successful the present licence will be only a short term affair. After that the whole matter would become a German legal question as the owners of a newspaper could do whatever they wished about directors or policy.

(signed) G. TURNER  
Senior Information Services Officer

GT/CEM

Copy to: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.



"and several of my editorial staff are Party members too, offers the advantage that we are trying to put the ideas of the Socialdemocratic Party in the foreground in an unrecognisable manner. If my opponents discover I have been included in the list they will look upon it as a proof that nevertheless "Volksblatt" is a Socialdemocratic organ. Therefore I beg of you to omit my name."

18. Regarding financial control and history, the capital of the firm is held wholly by the Lezinsky family in the proportion of 75% by the widow and 25% by the son who is also reversionary legatee. The original capital for the founding of the newspaper in 1946 was also a purely Lezinsky undertaking without SPD money. When in September 1947 Erich Lezinsky formed a separate book printing company - to negotiate purchase of the premises from a private owner - later absorbed into "Volksblatt G.m.b.H.", the capital came in part from "Telegraf" Verlag and the Berlin SPD Verlag. He subsequently bought out their interests.

19. Although a licence is not a transferable property which can be bequeathed to heirs, it would be patently unfair and impractical to affect the Lezinskys' financial interests built up by Erich Lezinsky's capital and enterprise. At the same time there is no doubt that he owed his position as licence holder to Party support and that he conducted "Volksblatt" - although independently - along the general lines of SPD policy.

20. With compromise between the parties ruled out we have responsibility for the decision despite the privately expressed opinion of Scholz that it should go before the German Advisory Licensing Committee. That is undesirable as Scholz, at least a semi-interested party, is an official of the Newspaper Sub-Committee. The commonsense normal solution would seem to be the appointment of Frau Lezinsky as licence holder provided she gave a firm guarantee of continuing "Volksblatt" along her husband's lines - lines which raised no SPD policy objections.

21. It is not believed this would in any way satisfy the SPD who desire recognition of their claimed reversionary rights in "Volksblatt" and a majority policy control among the licence holders. Their only consolation would be the dispelling of their fears of "Volksblatt's" departure from the Party line and the elimination of Schöpflin as a licensee. From our licensing viewpoint we would be appointing a figure head who would need to rely upon her employees for the operation of the newspaper - but that is no new experience for a newspaper owner.

22. There appears only one alternative, primarily a political decision. It is that of trying to influence Frau Lezinsky to accept another licence holder of SPD connections but not an official Party nominee. Had Schilling not been compromised already he might have filled the bill in his capacity as Mayor of Spandau. Even here, ISB is convinced the Lezinsky interests would fight. Furthermore, our action, if carried to the conclusion of saying "either or", would not only be a recognition of the SPD claim, which has not been proved clearly, but would make us vulnerable as imposing a direct political control on a newspaper.

/23. It ...



influence on the Lezinskys. The SPD was afraid that influence would direct "Volksblatt" to some other Party - possibly the FDP. He was not hopeful that they could reach any agreement with Frau Lezinsky. They wished to safeguard her financial interests but he could not say what financial adjustments in the way of additional capital were envisaged if SPD licence holders were introduced. Nor could he say from what source such capital would be provided. Although they had put forward Frau Lezinsky as an SPD nomination they did not consider her qualified to be the sole licence holder. The SPD was prepared to go to the highest levels to secure what was considered to be its rights to participate in the direction of "Volksblatt".

14. On March 25 Mattick submitted documents in support of his statements, the relevant one being a letter of March 22 from Scholz recalling the 1946 licensing negotiations. This implied an agreement with the Political Adviser, Mr. Steel, that in view of the future transformation of the newspaper into its pre 1933 form the licence holder could not be other than a Socialdemocrat. There was no doubt that someday "Volksblatt" was expected to come to an agreement with the SPD. That was borne out by its membership of "Konzentration" which identified it as a member of the circle of newspapers formerly owned by the Party. Dr. Schumacher after a conversation with Mr. Steel on 20 February 1946 told Scholz their talk had left no doubt about the personal licence being made into a licence for the Party later on. Erich Lezinsky had assured both Scholz and Paul Loebe that he regarded himself as a trustee for the SPD.

15. The Lezinsky contention is that "Volksblatt" was licensed without stipulated SPD commitments. Although following the broad Party lines it was conducted in an independent fashion - the relationship to the SPD being co-operative rather than subservient. In support of this contention the leading article of No. 1 of 5 March 1946 begins: "The Spandauer Volksblatt will be published as the first newspaper of an unofficial and non Party Political character in the Berlin Sector of the British Occupation Zone of Germany." At the licensing ceremony four days earlier Major General W. A. Bishop, then Chief of PRISC, is recorded - under the cross-head "Ueber parteiliche Stellung" - as saying it was significant that "All British Military Government recognised Parties are united in your staff so that one can designate it as a truly democratic newspaper." In a front page featured congratulatory message in the first issue Burgermeister Munch (CDU) wrote: "The Spandauer Volksblatt will represent no predetermined political line."

16. Erich Lezinsky's intention to maintain the newspaper on its past lines was stressed by a written assurance to SISO on 29 February 1952 that the policy of "Volksblatt" would be unchanged by the appointment of his nominated additional licence holders.

17. Regarding "Volksblatt's" relationship with Konzentration G.m.b.H. a letter from Erich Lezinsky on 8 September 1950 rejected a suggestion that he appear on their register of Socialdemocratic Publishing and Printing firms. This stated: "As you know, I am no Party publishing firm ..... My newspaper is considered as non-political. The fact that I am a Party member

/and ...



nominations for Frau Lezinsky, Schröder and Karl Schilling, the SPD Burgermeister of Spandau.

8. Heine, of the Zonal SPD, sent a sharp letter of protest to ISD about the issue of the temporary licence authority, urging its withdrawal, expressing the wish to have the licensees as SPD trustees and mentioning the three names submitted by Mattick. He also attacked Schöpflin - who was incidentally one of the SPD nominated licence holders for the now defunct official Berlin Party daily "Sozialdemokrat".

9. Chief, ISD, replied firmly to Heine's letter and subsequently saw him, upholding ISB in the grant of the temporary licence and emphasising that the licensing decision was primarily a matter for Berlin Mil Gov. While agreeing that the most desirable basis for a solution would be an amicable agreement between the parties he stressed that no firm undertaking had been given by ISD that the SPD wishes on licensing would be met.

10. The SPD efforts to approach Frau Lezinsky soon began but she did not receive any of the various intermediaries who included Paul Loebe and Burgermeister Schilling. Finally, on March 20 - on the suggestion of ISB - Dr. Hafenrichter, the Lezinsky lawyer, met Kurt Mattick to hear what the Party was seeking. On March 21 Dr. Hafenrichter informed us that Mattick had claimed the SPD right to agree on the licence holders on the grounds that "Volksblatt" was essentially an SPD newspaper as successor to that existing in pre-Nazi times. He stated their three nominees and expressed complete opposition to Schöpflin as having undue influence on the Lezinsky family. If Frau Lezinsky was not prepared to come to terms the SPD would introduce an opposition newspaper in Spandau.

11. When Frau Lezinsky was told of these proposals she refused to negotiate, expressing determination to maintain "Volksblatt" on the lines followed by her husband and a complete objection to SPD nominees being introduced as licence holders. If the Lezinskys continued to have the licence they would meet the SPD threat of a new newspaper by fighting back to the finish.

12. ISB then contacted the SPD and on March 22 there was an interview with Kurt Mattick who said they held firm to their view that "Volksblatt" was a continuation of the former SPD owned newspaper. It was only licensed personally to Erich Lezinsky - the editor until 1933 and an SPD stalwart - because in 1946 it was impossible to license direct to the Party. Lezinsky's candidature was approved by Dr. Schumacher and the SPD gave financial help. Without SPD sponsorship and support Erich Lezinsky could not have had the licence nor the newspaper the title through which it enjoyed immediate goodwill. Probably the SPD had been remiss in not having some clear undertaking from Erich Lezinsky regarding the connections and responsibilities toward the Party. But the position was well known to all concerned with the licensing in 1946 - on both the British and German side. There could be no doubt about it being a Socialist newspaper for it was a member of Konzentration G.m.b.H., the SPD co-operative association of publishing houses.

13. Mattick reiterated the generalisations against Schöpflin and his alleged

/influence ...



COPY

ISBE/07/03

86 6737

CONFIDENTIAL

25th March, 1952

To: Political Adviser.

Subject: "Volksblatt" Licence

1. Erich Lezinsky, sole licence holder and chief editor of the Spandau newspaper "Volksblatt" (British licensed in 1946) died on March 6.
2. Before his death he had asked for his son, Kurt Lezinsky, and his business manager, Alfons Schöpflin, to be appointed as additional licence holders, ill-health necessitating some relief from his responsibilities. The relevant background information regarding these nominations was referred to ISD at Wahnerheide for comment and advice - ISB not being wholly satisfied about their joint acceptability.
3. In Wahnerheide the Zonal SPD prompted by Arno Scholz, by-passed ISB and made direct approaches to ISD on this licensing application. They put forward the claims that "Volksblatt" had clear Party connections and that its licensees should be acceptable to them. They had special objections to the appointment of Schöpflin.
4. These strongly pressed contentions led to ISD agreeing that the best course would be for the SPD to negotiate with Lezinsky in an effort to obtain mutually acceptable names for submission for licensing. Unfortunately neither Lezinsky nor ISB had pre-information. We were told subsequently that we should take no action about the licensing until the two parties had reached agreement.
5. Erich Lezinsky's death precipitated matters by leaving the newspaper without a licensee. To permit its legal publication under Military Government regulations ISB appointed Kurt Lezinsky, Schöpflin and W. Emil Schröder, the deputy editor, as temporary licence holders until April 30. This was agreed with Political Adviser and ISD.
6. In view of their nominations having been invalidated by Erich Lezinsky's death, Kurt Lezinsky and Schöpflin renewed the applications for their permanent appointment. Schröder also put in an application for consideration.
7. The day after Erich Lezinsky's death Kurt Mattick, on behalf of the Berlin SPD, wrote to ISB that "Volksblatt" was the successor to the 1933 Nazi-suppressed Spandau SPD newspaper. It was maintained that its connection with the Party should be established in future by the appointment of licence holders occupying office as trustees for the SPD. He subsequently submitted

/nominations



The owners of the newspaper, including all equipment and plant, are Frau Lezinsky (75%) and the son Kurt Lezinsky (25%). Frau Lezinsky has expressed her intention to continue the newspaper on the same lines upon which it was conducted by her husband, and in our view she should be allowed to do so. You will of course realise that in Berlin licensing of newspapers still continues. Normally matters of this sort are dealt with by the Sector Commandant.

I hope that this brief history of events, plus Turner's summary, will supply the information required. We shall be pleased to elaborate any point on which you require further clarification.

Y. e.  
J.



George Turner prepared a very comprehensive summary of the case and submitted it to the Political Adviser in Berlin; I attach a copy of his summary dated 25th March, 1952.

Subsequent to Turner's memorandum, the matter was put to the German Licensing Advisory Committee in Berlin (Chairman, Arno Scholz). This Committee found itself unable to agree on this case and ultimately broke down and ceased its activities due to disagreements over the granting of a licence to the Ullstein concern in Berlin.

A further effort was made by the British Authorities in Berlin to persuade the Lezinsky family and the S.P.D. party to come to an amicable agreement, but the only nominee acceptable to both parties was Frau Lezinsky herself. It has now been decided to appoint her as sole licensee, but this information has not yet been publicised and neither party to the dispute nor any other German is aware of it.

The foregoing briefly recounts the facts of the case. There are, however, many important factors to be taken into consideration. The S.P.D. contend that the newspaper was in 1946 licensed and conducted on behalf of a specific political party (the S.P.D.), whereas the Lezinsky family say that this was not the case. The only written evidence in support of the S.P.D. contention is the note from Arno Scholz which was attached to your letter. These are his personal recollections and we have seen no documentary evidence to support them, although he is supported verbally by Mattick, who, until last week, was Vice-Chairman of the S.P.D. Party in Berlin. In favour of the arguments of the Lezinsky family, we have the following facts.

The newspaper, from its first issue, openly declared itself to be independent and as not having any political party commitments, although it followed the broad party lines of the S.P.D. The leading article of its issue No.1. dated 5th March, 1946 begins: "The 'Spandauer Volksblatt' will be published as the first newspaper of an unofficial and non-party political character in the Berlin Sector of the British Occupation Zone of Germany". Scholz, in his memo, states that Erich Lezinsky joined "Konzentration", an organisation of Socialist undertakings, but on 8th September, 1950, Erich Lezinsky wrote as follows in reply to a suggestion that he should appear on the Register of Social Democratic publishing and printing firms:-

"As you know, I am no party publishing firm ..... My newspaper is considered as non-political. The fact that I am a party member and several of my editorial staff are party members too, offers the advantage that we are trying to put the ideas of the social democratic party in the foreground in an unrecognisable manner. If my opponents discover I have been included in the list, they will look upon it as proof that nevertheless, 'Volksblatt' is a social democratic organ. Therefore I beg of you to omit my name."

/ The



Wahnerheide 197

ISD 31/5/11

CONFIDENTIAL

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
(22c) XXXXXXXX  
Rheinland.

29 May, 1952

See fol 41.

in. H. J.

34

In reply to your letter dated 23rd May, 1952, addressed to Michael Robb and enclosing copy of a letter from John Hynd to the Secretary of State regarding the "Volksblatt" in Berlin.

The brief history of this affair is as follows:-

An S.P.D. newspaper entitled "Volksblatt" was printed in Spandau up to 1933, when it was suppressed by the Nazis. One of the leading editors of this paper was Erich Lezinsky.

In 1946, the British Authorities in Berlin decided to licence a newspaper in Spandau, and a licence was granted to Erich Lezinsky. The title of this paper was the "Spandauer Volksblatt" and Lezinsky was the sole licensee. The capital for the founding of this newspaper in 1946 was provided by Lezinsky and no S.P.D. money was involved.

In January, 1952, Erich Lezinsky asked Information Services Branch, Berlin, if his son, Kurt Lezinsky, could be appointed as a second licence holder. Erich Lezinsky was in a very poor state of health and needed someone to share his licensee responsibilities. In view of Kurt Lezinsky's inexperience, Erich Lezinsky later asked that a third person, Alfons Schöpflin, should also be granted a licence for this paper. Schöpflin is the business manager of the "Volksblatt".

The S.P.D. in Berlin learned of Erich Lezinsky's requests for two additional licensees and protested, claiming that the newspaper had clear party connections and that its licensees should be acceptable to the S.P.D. Party. They also stated they had special objections to the appointment of Schöpflin.

I.S.D. Berlin, at this stage, consulted us and we advised Turner to suggest that the S.P.D. should negotiate with Lezinsky and endeavour to put up mutually acceptable nominations for licence holders.

Erich Lezinsky died on 6th March, 1952, leaving the newspaper without a licensee. Under existing regulations in Berlin, a newspaper cannot appear without a licence and licensee. The Berlin Authorities therefore appointed Kurt Lezinsky (the son), Schöpflin (the business manager) and W. Emil Schröder (the deputy editor) as temporary licence holders. These temporary licences were to expire on 30th April, but were subsequently extended to 31st May, 1952.

Subsequent to Erich Lezinsky's death, the S.P.D. claim<sup>ed</sup> that the "Volksblatt" was a successor to the S.P.D. paper suppressed by the Nazis in 1933 and that its connection with the S.P.D. Party should be established by the appointment of licence holders occupying office as trustees for the Party. They nominated Frau Lezinsky (widow of Erich Lezinsky), Schröder (the deputy editor) and Karl Schilling, (the S.P.D. Bürgermeister of Spandau).

John Moore, Esq.,  
German Education & Information Dept.,  
Foreign Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

FILE




 FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S. W. 1.

(FC 10214/26)

CONFIDENTIAL

12th June, 1952.

*My dear Ted,*

40.

We have been considering your letter to John Moore, ISD. 31/5/11 of the 29th May, regarding the "Spandauer Volksblatt".

On the evidence available here, our Legal Adviser agrees that the S.P.D. do not have at all a strong case when they contend that the newspaper was a party organ and that Erich Lezinsky was a trustee of the party. He thinks, that, since the S.P.D. paper which was closed down in 1933 was simply called "Volksblatt", there can be no question of the present newspaper's title infringing any copyright in the title of the earlier one. But that is a question of German Law.

On the other hand the Legal Adviser is not entirely sure that the S.P.D. may not have a moral claim to consideration in respect of the present licensing and future conduct of the paper. The S.P.D. might have cause for complaint if they are correct in saying that Erich Lezinsky only obtained a licence in 1946 because of their support, and if the granting of a licence to the present owners or their nominees prevent them from starting another newspaper of their own in Western Berlin. In such a case, it could be said that, although the S.P.D. were happy with the newspaper whilst Erich Lezinsky was in charge, they do not like it under its present management, and by its continued existence are being deprived of any acceptable outlet for their views in Berlin. We might thus be accused of muzzling the S.P.D., perhaps in the financial interests of the Lezinsky family. I should be grateful for your views on this aspect, and in particular on the prospects of the S.P.D. being able to obtain a licence for another paper in Berlin if they should want one.

In addition, we note that the temporary licences granted to the paper after Erich Lezinsky's death were due to expire on the 31st May, and in your letter you state that it has been decided to appoint Frau Lizinsky as sole licensee. Before a reply is sent to John Hynd, we ought to know whether Frau Lezinsky has in fact now become the sole licensee; if so, for what period; and whether all concerned have been so informed. Perhaps you would let me have a reply on these points as well.

Su 38A.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George Turner in Berlin.

I.S.D.	INIT.	DATE
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D/CHIEF	X	21.6.52
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
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NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

*Yours ever,*
*Rolland*
*cc'd to 45.  
D/Chief.*

Colonel I.C. Edwards, O.B.E.,  
Deputy Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
(22c) Wahnheide,  
Rheinland.



wahnerheide v ber b5 30 18/6 th1 1130a  
from i s b berlin from turner  
to i s d wahnerheide for d/chief

copy of letter mentioned by you has not yet been received  
stop could you please send copy urgently so that i may provide  
the answers stop

message ends  
signed turner

sent ber by hand 1130a hj  
rd by wahnerheide.....18/6/1133 schu



Wahnerheide v ber b5 30 18/6 th1 1130a  
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to i s d wahnerheide for d/chief

27

31/5/11

42

D/lling

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message ends  
signed turner

despatched 10.15. on 19/6.

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Due to Frau Lezinsky's absence on holiday, the licence has not been issued to her formally but her lawyer has been notified of our intention (verbally and by a letter dated 14 June). She is calling here to receive the licence on June 26. Unless there are any breaches of the licensing regulations, the licence is a permanent one as in all other cases.

"All concerned" is taken to include the SPD. This has not been done in their case nor in that of the other temporary licence holders who will be notified officially before the expiry of their period of service. I had not contemplated informing the SPD until after seeing Frau Lezinsky. I think that out of courtesy they should then have a brief letter telling them of our decision. Will you please notify me if you agree with that course.

Yours

*Yours sincerely*  
*George Turner*

(G. TURNER)



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

You Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737

Dear Ted,

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
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D/CHIEF	X	✓
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CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER

(BERLIN)

BAOR 2

20th June, 1952.

Thank you for the copy of PC 10214/26 of 12 June, received to-day.

The newspaper was licensed as "Spandauer Volksblatt" on 1 March 1946. Its masthead title was changed on 1 January 1948. We have been unable to find any record of the reasons for that change but I will query this matter with Frau Lezinsky on her return to Berlin on Thursday, 26 June. George Bell, who was SISO at the time, may be able to give you the answer before then. The logical assumption would be that it was Lezinsky's wish to spread the circulation Eastwards into the Soviet Zone and that a specifically localised masthead might have been a handicap in this.

Michael Balfour, who was adviser on policy to the PR/ISC Detachment at CCG Forward HQ in Berlin until 28 Feb 1946 - he became Head of ISC in April 1946 - told me this week that it was not his recollection that the newspaper was licensed to serve SPD interests. He said that it was desired to start a local newspaper in the area and Lezinsky was the most acceptable licence holder. (This is in line with the stress on independence in the first issue of 6 March 1946).

We can, and shall, do all in our power to ensure the continuance of "Volksblatt" along the lines on which it was conducted by Erich Lezinsky by getting a written undertaking from Frau Lezinsky to that effect. Erich Lezinsky, you will remember, gave that undertaking when he asked for additional licence holders and his widow desires to carry out his wishes in all things.

There is no question of the SPD viewpoint being muzzled in West Berlin. The "Telegraf", the biggest circulation newspaper, is the Party's supporter. The Party itself has a current licence for "Sozialdemokrat" ("Berliner Stadtblatt"). Although they were unable to continue publication of that newspaper on financial grounds, the licence has not been withdrawn by ISB. On the contrary, it has been allowed to cover publication of a weekly issue "Berliner Stimme" to ensure representation of official Party viewpoints and can be revived for daily publication whenever they desire.

I think the preceding paragraph makes it clear that "Volksblatt's" continuance does not exclude the representation of the SPD case in Berlin. Neither is there anything to prevent them applying for another daily licence if they desire one - but that would seem to be ridiculous when they already have one they are not using.

Regarding the present management being unacceptable to the SPD, the temporary licence holders cease to hold office on June 30. After that date the present temporary official role of Schöpflin will disappear and he will revert to the position he held with Erich Lezinsky and should no longer be a target for the Party attacks.

Colonel I. C. Edwards, O.B.E., T.D.,  
D/Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnheide, Rheinland.

/Due.....



31/5/11

~~3074/17~~ 47

53  
2  
wahnheide v ber b 5 -50- 24/6 th1 1645/1645a  
from :- i s b berlin from turner  
to :- i s d wahnheide for d/chief

urgent stop reference sozialdemokrat stop first published on  
3 june 1946 stop licence holders were tausch, schoepflin and  
mattick stop in august 1948 neumann and deutsch were added to  
list stop masthead changed to "stadtblatt" on 24 march 1950  
stop publishers from first issue s p d verlag stop

message ends  
signed turner

sent ber by hand 24/6/1650a jd  
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*See confirmation on form 46.  
It is sent out of date & requires  
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used to that bit of inefficiency*

*fol.*  
25.11.52.



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to :- i s d wahnerheide for d/chief

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3 june 1946 stop licence holders were tausch, schoepflin and  
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list stop masthead changed to "stadtblatt" on 24 march 1950  
stop publishers from first issue s p d verlag stop

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44

actin at 45

See fol 46



From : Colonel I.C. Edwards, OBE, TD.

Wahnsee 197

ISD/31/5/11

CONFIDENTIAL

24th June, 1952.

In reply to your PC 10214/26 dated 12th June, 1952.

There is a point regarding the title of the newspaper which I should clarify. The licence was granted on 1st March 1946 to Erich Lezinsky for a paper to be named the "Spandauer Volksblatt". The paper appeared daily under this title up to 1st January 1948 when, with our approval, the masthead and title was changed to "Volksblatt". Turner has been unable to find any records in the files of the reasons for this change but, as you know, I was in Berlin then and I recollect that one of the reasons for the change was that we and Lezinsky wished to spread the circulation of his paper into the Soviet Zone and in particular to Potsdam; the original localised masthead and title would not have assisted this.

Regarding the Legal Adviser's reference to the S.P.D. claim that Lezinsky only obtained a licence in 1946 because of their support, and that the granting of the licence to him prevents the S.P.D. from starting another newspaper on their own in Berlin. Neither of these "claims" are supported by the facts.

It was British policy in 1946 to start a newspaper in the Spandau area of the British Sector of Berlin and Lezinsky was the most suitable and acceptable person to become the licensee. Providing the S.P.D. did not oppose this choice (which they did not do) he would have been granted the licence with or without their "support". Incidentally no evidence apart from Scholz's recollections has been produced to show that they did "support" him.

There can be no question of "muzzling" the S.P.D. or depriving them of an acceptable outlet in West Berlin. In June 1946 a licence was granted to the S.P.D. Party, the named licensees being the Chairman and officers of the party, for a paper entitled the "Sozialdemokrat". The party later (1950) changed the title to "Berliner Stadtblatt". This paper failed financially and ceased publication on 19th May 1951, but the licence has not been withdrawn. On the contrary it has been allowed to cover the publication of an S.P.D. weekly, the "Berliner Stimme". The S.P.D. therefore have a weekly publication and can revive a daily newspaper whenever they decide to do so. If for some incomprehensible reason the S.P.D. wish to apply for a second licence there is nothing to prevent them doing so.

of the "Volksblatt"

The temporary licences were further extended by the British authorities to the 30th June 1952. Frau Lezinsky's lawyer was informed officially by letter on 14th June that she was to be appointed sole licensee. She has been out of Berlin but the licence will be handed to her on her return this week. Providing she abides by the licensing regulations the licence is permanent as are all such licences. Neither the other temporary licensees nor the S.P.D. have as yet been informed of the decision to appoint Frau Lezinsky sole licensee, but as a matter of courtesy they will be so informed in writing before the end of this month.

See also 49.

R.A.A. Chaput de Saintonge Esq.,  
German Education and Information Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE,  
London, S.W. 1.

Copy to : Mr. Turner, Berlin.

FILE



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/04  
You Ref.:  
Telephone: 86 6737



INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

24th June, 1952.

To: D/Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

See 44 & 45.

Subject: Sozialdemokrat

Confirming our telephone conversation of to-day:

1. "Sozialdemokrat" was licensed on 3 June 1946. It was the official organ of the SPD in Berlin. The original licence holders were Franz Tausch, Kurt Mattick and Alfons Schöpflin. In August 1948 Eric Deutsch and Franz Neumann were added as licence holders. From the start the publishers were the SPD Verlag.
2. The masthead title changed to "Berliner Stadtblatt" on 24 March 1950 and was shortened to "Stadtblatt" on 1 May 1951.
3. On 19 May 1951 the newspaper ceased publication as a daily through financial inability to carry on. In announcing that decision to ISB, Mattick's letter said that the SPD Committee in Berlin had the intention to bring out a weekly newspaper for its members in place of the daily. A letter signed Mischke of 26 May 1951 stated that when an improvement took place in the general economic situation in Berlin it was hoped to resume publication in the old form. Publication of the weekly "Berliner Stimme" has since taken place, and continues, under the old licence (No 177).
4. Schöpflin left the newspaper in 1949.
5. In a letter of May 1951 Mattick wrote to ISB: "The Land Committee of the SPD has appointed the licence holders. Consequently the licence holders are responsible for the running of the paper on behalf of the SPD as long as they hold this licence."

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D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

GT/CEM

*George Turner*

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER



3rd July, 1952

T.P.M.

JS  
To: G.R.I.D. Foreign Office, London (for Moore)

From: I.S.D. Wahnerheide

Reference Our telecon this morning re "Volksblatt". As you know, the appointment of editorial staff is the responsibility of the licensee. Unless a known undesirable is appointed interference by us would be a retrograde step. Frau Lezinsky has appointed Schoepflin as editor of the "Volksblatt". He is a journalist, has a completely clean Fragebogen and was formerly a licensee and member of the staff of the now defunct SPD Berlin paper "Sozialdemokrat". He left "Sozialdemokrat" following disagreement with certain members of the SPD party in Berlin. We have no reason to believe that he will fail to implement the written undertaking we have been given by Frau Lezinsky that the "Volksblatt" will maintain in the future the line followed by her husband in the past. If this line is not followed we can raise the matter with the licensee but such a step at the present time would be premature and groundless.



Edwards



49

26

~~Min. Sec. Rosenberg~~

File 31/5/11.

wahn s 5 - 150 - 3/7/52 thi 1445

to g.e.i.d. foreign office, London (for moore)  
from i.s.d. wannerheide

3rd july, 1952

reference our telecon this morning re "volksblatt". as you know, the appointment ~~of him~~ of editorial staff is the responsibility of the licensee, unless a known undesirable is appointed interference by us would be a retrograde step. frau lezinsky has appointed schoepflin as editor of the "volksblatt". he is a journalist, has a completely clean fragebogen and was formerly a licensee and member of the staff of the now defunct spd berlin paper ~~"sozialdemokrat"~~ "sozialdemokrat". he left "sozialdemokrat" following disagreement with certain members of the spd party in berlin. we have no reason to believe that he will fail to implement the written undertaking we have been given by frau lezinsky that the ~~"volks"~~ "volksblatt" will maintain in the future the line followed by her husband in the past. if this line is not followed we can raise the ~~matter~~ matter with the licensee but such a step at the present time would be premature and groundless.

edwards

sent wannerheide by hand 1450a - gl -  
rd by confolk .....3/7/sent



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

You

Telephone: 86 6737

48  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

2nd July, 1952.

To: Office of the Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

I.S.D. WAHN	
4	1
FILE	31/5711

Subject: "Volksblatt"

On assuming her office as licence holder on July 1, Frau Lezinsky has appointed Schöpflin as editor of "Volksblatt".

It is a position he has coveted for a long time in view of his original professional experience - he was a member of the newspaper's staff before it was suppressed by the Nazis in 1933.

While I personally think it is an unwise move, it is something about which we cannot raise an objection. Provided any member of an editorial staff is politically acceptable and without a criminal record we cannot - or, at least, should not - interfere with his appointment. Selection of staff is a matter for the licence holder who carries full responsibility to Military Government for their actions as members of the staff.

When I informed Frau Lezinsky of the intention to make her licence holder I put in a good word for Schroeder and she assured me that despite any past differences she had the same respect as her husband for his professional qualities and desired to retain his services.

Schroeder has, not unnaturally, taken umbrage at the new appointment which means his reversion from acting rank to that he had under Erich Lezinsky. He has written me to-day that he intends to resign and I am sending him a friendly note to hope that he will reconsider the decision.

I expect the SPD will squeal but I do not see how we can take any official recognition of the outcry provided the newspaper is properly conducted.

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GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

GT/CEM

N.A.  
G. Turner  
(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER



Falsch ist die Darstellung, dass die Partei das "Volksblatt" an Erich Lezinsky verkauft hat. Die Partei hat niemals auch nur eine Mark fuer ihren Wiedergutmachungs-Anspruch an das "Volksblatt" bekommen, sondern hat - wie ich schon ausfuehrte - sich nur einverstanden damit erklaert, dass Erich Lezinsky gewissermassen als Platzhalter fuer diese Ansprueche gilt.

Es steht auch nicht zur Debatte, ob die SPD eine Moeglichkeit hat, eine Zeitung herauszugeben, sondern es handelt sich darum, dass das "Volksblatt" einstmals sozialdemokratisches Eigentum war, und wenn anderen der Schaden, der ihnen waehrend der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus entstanden ist, ersetzt wird, so muesste auch die SPD mindestens auf dem Wege ueber die Wiedergutmachung auch das "Volksblatt" zurueckbekommen oder mindestens an ihm beteiligt sein.

Also nochmals, ein Verkauf hat nicht stattgefunden, und die Sozialdemokratische Partei war bisland einverstanden, dass der ihr zugestandene Titel "Volksblatt" von Erich Lezinsky benutzt worden ist, weil sie glaubte, dass er ihre Wiedergutmachungsansprueche eines Tages irgendwie abgelten wuerde.

Durch die Uebertragung der Lizenz nur an Frau Lezinsky und nicht - wenigstens zu einem Teil - auch an Treuhaender fuer die SPD ist jetzt der Zustand eingetreten, dass die SPD ihre Besitzrechte an dem Titel "Volksblatt" durch das Gericht sichern lassen muss. Mit der Lizenzuebergabe an Frau Lezinsky ist der Fall laengst nicht abgeschlossen.

Was besonders gestoert hat, ist die Tatsache, dass es bei der Britischen Militaer-Regierung niemand fuer notwendig befunden hat, mit der SPD zu sprechen, bevor die endgueltige Lizenz



Als die Britische Militaer-Regierung ihre Lizenzbedingungen aenderte und zustand, dass auch die Parteien Zeitungen herausgeben koennen und das Recht haben, als Lizenztraeger einzelne Personen vorzuschlagen, wurde die Umwandlung der "Volksblatt"-Lizenz nicht durchgefuehrt, weil ja an der Haltung von Erich Lezinsky nie ein Zweifel war.

Im uebrigen ist es auch voellig falsch, dass Erich Lezinsky den Betrieb aus eigenen Mitteln angeschafft hat. Der Kaufpreis fuer den Betrieb betrug RM 600.000.--. Davon hat zunaechst der "Telegraf" RM 300.000.--, der SPD-Verlag RM 200.000.-- und Erich Lezinsky selbst RM 100.000.-- aufgebracht. Erst durch diese Hilfsstellung war es Erich Lezinsky moeglich, den Betrieb zu erwerben. Sowohl der "Telegraf" als auch der SPD-Verlag haben grosse Opfer fuer diese Spandauer Druckerei gebracht, denn mit den RM 300.000.--, mit denen sich der "Telegraf" beteiligte, haette er in der Reichsmarkzeit gut und gern 2 oder 3 gebrauchte Rotationsmaschinen kaufen koennen, die ihren Wert behalten haetten. Insofern haette sich also die Summe auch nach der Waehrungsreform nicht vermindert.

Der "Telegraf" ist Erich Lezinsky bei der Rueckzahlung dieses Betrages sehr entgegengekommen und hat nur Mk 260.000.-- bekommen. Ausserdem hat er - was nicht zu unterschaezen ist - auf Zinszahlungen waehrend der Hergabe des Darlehens in all den Jahren verzichtet. Auch der SPD-Verlag hat keine Zinsen fuer sein Darlehen erhalten.

Ich habe also jetzt ~~mit~~ zunaechst einmal bewiesen, dass die Feststellung in der ersten Ausgabe des "Volksblatt" lediglich mit den Lizenzbedingungen, die seinerzeit ueblich waren, zusammenhing. Ich bin jederzeit bereit zu beeiden, dass die SPD zwar keine Einwendungen Lezinsky gegenueber hatte, aber immer klar herausgestellt hat - und bei Erich Lezinsky war auch kein Zweifel darueber - dass er Platzhalter gegenueber den Wiedergutmachungsanspruechen der Partei war. Erich Lezinsky hatte natuerlich einen grossen Anteil am Ausbau des Betriebes. Deshalb hat die SPD auch nach seinem Tode selbst vorgeschlagen, dass Frau Lezinsky mit einem Drittel Mitlizenztraegerin sein muesste, und dass zwei andere Mitlizenztraeger seitens der Partei vorgeschlagen werden muessten.

Ebenso viel Anteil am Aufbau dieser Zeitungen wie Erich Lezinsky hatte auch der Chefredakteur Emil Schroeder, und es waere nur gerecht gewesen, ihn als Mitlizenztraeger heranzuziehen. Irgendwie scheint auch die Britische Militaer-Regierung das Gefuehl gehabt zu haben, dass man Emil Schroeder als Mitlizenztraeger haette aufnehmen muessen. Sie hatte ihn zwar auch nach dem Tode von Erich Lezinsky als vorlaeufigen Mitlizenztraeger benannt. Bei der endgueltigen Lizenzerteilung wurde er jedoch nicht mehr beruecksichtigt, was zur Folge hatte, dass er, da er als Chefredakteur im Wege war, von den neuen Lizenztraegern auf die Strasse gesetzt wurde.

Mit der Sache selbst hat die Behauptung, dass die Zeitung "Der Sozialdemokrat", spaeter "Berliner Stadtblatt" einen finanziellen Fehlschlag erlitten haetten, nichts zu tun.



Arno Scholz  
Herausgeber des TELEGRAF

Berlin-Grünwald, 21.7.1952  
Bismarckplatz  
Telefon: 977921

Mr. John Hynd,  
House of Commons,  
London S.W.1.

Werter Genosse Hynd!

Ich habe, da der Genosse Kurt Mattick verreist ist, Ihren Brief vom 16. d.Mts. erhalten und besile mich, ihn zu beantworten, weil ich zu meinem Erstaunen aus Ihrem Brief entnommen habe, dass Ihnen eine ganze Reihe Dinge nicht richtig dargestellt worden sind.

Da ich vom Anfang an die Sache verfolgt habe und in vielen Fällen auch zu Entscheidungen zugezogen worden bin, bin ich in der Lage, ein absolut klares Bild über die Situation zu geben.

Im Jahre 1946 kam der letzte Chefredakteur des bis zum Jahre 1933 der SPD gehörenden "Volksblatt" zu mir, der ich damals Verlagsdirektor beim "Berliner", dem Nachrichtenblatt der Britischen Militär-Regierung war, und bat mich um Unterstützung bei der Militär-Regierung für den Plan, das "Volksblatt" wiederaufleben zu lassen.

Ich habe dann mit der Berliner SPD und mit Dr. Kurt Schumacher eingehend über den Fall gesprochen. Die Lizenzbedingungen sahen seinerzeit noch nicht vor, dass eine Lizenz an eine Partei oder an von einer Partei beauftragte Personen gegeben werden konnte. Nach den Lizenzbedingungen war es nur möglich, Lizenzen einzeln oder gemeinsam an Personen zu vergeben. Da seinerzeit sowohl die Britische- wie auch die Amerikanische Militär-Regierung auf dem Standpunkt standen, dass zunächst wichtig sei, eine demokratische Presse aufzubauen - später wurden dann auch Zeitungen zugelassen, die einzelnen Parteien als Sprachrohr dienten - blieb kein anderer Weg als damit einverstanden zu sein, dass Erich Lezinsky eine Lizenz für das "Volksblatt" erhielt. Bei ihm, dem letzten Chefredakteur des sozialdemokratischen Organs und einem so langjährigen Genossen schien die Gewähr dafür gegeben zu sein, dass später eine Umwandlung reibungslos durchgeführt werden kann. Ich habe Erich Lezinsky seinerzeit das Einverständnis der Partei übermitteln lassen, dass er den Titel "Volksblatt" benutzen kann, und dass später einmal darüber verhandelt werden soll, in welcher Weise die SPD bei ihrem Organ wieder eingeschaltet werden sollte.

Erich Lezinsky hat nie einen Zweifel darüber gehabt, dass er in gewissem Sinne Platzhalter für die eigentlichen Besitzer des "Volksblattes" ist, und er hat auch an allen Besprechungen der Konzentration G.m.b.H. teilgenommen, d.h., einer Vereinigung der Zeitungen und Zeitschriften, die mit der Partei zusammenarbeiten. Erich Lezinsky hat auch - eben weil er sich als Platzhalter der Partei fühlte - bis zur Blockade und ich glaube, auch noch etwas länger, einen monatlichen Betrag an die Partei gezahlt, wie dies auch die von der Partei selbst herausgegebenen Zeitungen in der Bundesrepublik tun.



I am also informed that, following on Lezinsky's death, our authorities suggested that three trustees be granted the license, namely, Frau Lezinsky, Herr Schröder and "one other independent S.P.D. Man" Schöpflin, but that as Schöpflin was not acceptable to the S.P.D. the Party suggested, as an alternative, Herr Schilling, the Burgomeister of Spandau. To this suggestion, no reply was received from Information Services Branch, who proceeded to appoint their three nominees, and, subsequently, to issue a permanent license to Frau Lezinsky alone.

There seems ample evidence here that the interest of the S.P.D. in the paper was fully recognised throughout, even to the final suggestion of three Trustees or Licensees, and in any event, there seems to be no question but that the title of the paper is the property of the S.P.D. In this connection I am assured that, as was the practice at that time when these papers started, the licensee (Lezinsky) made monthly contributions to the Party from the paper's earnings, and that Scholz holds receipts for these regular payments. So far as concerns the "purchase" of the machines etc., by Lezinsky, the facts are set out in the enclosed letter from Herr Scholz, who assures me that not one penny was subscribed by Lezinsky himself, and that the Party again holds receipts for the whole of the money that was advanced to Lezinsky for the purchase.

The question of the property rights however, is a legal one, and is complicated by the fact that this was all done under a "gentleman's" agreement. What I am concerned about is the desire of the S.P.D. to retain the title of their paper, with which they have long associations.

I would be glad also, if you would tell me why, in this case, the hitherto rigid rule that these licenses can only be issued to experienced, responsible journalists, has now been broken, and that a license has, in fact, now been granted on the basis of mere ownership of printing equipment. There can be no question, presumably, of a licensee disposing of a license in his Will, whatever he may do with property?

You state that the S.P.D. are not debarred in all this from resuming their other newspaper, or, indeed, of obtaining an additional license. What they are rightly concerned about at the moment, is recovering the right to the title of their paper "Volksblatt", without which the suggested second license would be of much reduced value.

The point seems to me to be important; the further point about the transfer of these licenses as part of property inheritance, while the present regulations governing the issue of licenses continue, is, I think, even more important from our point of view, and I hope you will make further inquiries into both points.

Perhaps you will be good enough to return Scholz's letter with your reply.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) John Hynd



COPY

49A

House of Commons,

London, S.W. 1

6th August, 1952.

Rt.Hon.Selwyn Lloyd M.P.  
Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Su 77

Dear Selwyn Lloyd,

Your ref. P.C. 10214/26.  
-----

In reply to yours of 7th July, I have now had an opportunity of discussing this matter with representatives of the S.P.D. and would like to draw your attention to one or two points.

2 When the question of a license for the "Volksblatt" first arose, there was no question of a license to a political party as such, and it was necessary (and this was understood by our authorities) that a Party desiring to resume one of its papers, must get some reliable person to apply for the license. This was done in the present case; Erich Lezinsky being suggested after his being endorsed by Dr. Schuhmacher. He was informed at the time that he could only, of course, utilise the title of "Volksblatt" provided the S.P.D. had no objection, since this was clearly the title of the former S.P.D. Paper.

3 On the point of the announcement in the first issue regarding the paper's independence of political parties; you will no doubt be aware that such an announcement was obligatory at the time, and, indeed, was merely a confirmation of the same principle as led to the decision that individuals and not Parties must be given the license in the first instance. It is also relevant to recall that our authorities decided to license this particular paper because, at that time, we were seeking the influence of the, then new, S.E.D., and that the Americans had licensed a C.D.U. paper in Berlin already, the Tagesspiegel.

4 Your letter suggests that there was "no evidence that the S.P.D. supported Lezinsky at that time". On the other hand you admit that (1) "We would not have agreed to the title if there had been S.P.D. Opposition", (2) in issuing the new license "Frau Lezinsky was the only nominee acceptable to both the owners and the S.P.D." -

- presumably as an indication that this was, in fact, a consideration in issuing the license (3) that "every encouragement was given by Information Services Branch to the S.P.D. and the Lezinsky family to come to agreement".

/I



(PC. 10214/34).

CONFIDENTIAL.



I.S.D. WAHN

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

20 AUG 1952

15th August, 1952.

FILE

31/5/11

My dear Michael.

Please refer to Ted Edwards' letter to Rolland ISD.31/5/11 of the 24th June.

The Minister of State wrote to Mr. Hynd on the basis of this letter. Mr. Hynd has now written in again, and I attach a copy of his letter of the 6th August. You will note that the letter from Arno Scholz, forwarded by Mr. Hynd, is incomplete. I intend to ask Mr. Hynd to send us the missing portion, but as he is away for a few days, I am sending you the attached at once in order not to waste time. I will send you a copy of the remainder of Scholz's letter as soon as I receive it.

I should be grateful for a quick reply when this has been done.

I am sending a copy of this letter, together with enclosures, to George Turner in Berlin.

Yours ever, John.

(J.H. Moore).

German Information Dept.

M.A. Robb, Esq.  
Chief,

Information Services Division,  
22(c) WAHNERHEIDE,  
Rheinland.

Spoken to Mr. Funn, asking for material for reply. He has the tele-print, but not yet this letter. I said I would get copy of Lloyd/Sykes letter if required. made 19/8 by 26/8

49

Reprint 16/8  
anal.)  
50.

action  
61

bl.  
28.VIII.52.



pp phen 50//

In minute on folio 49.

med  
19/8

bl.  
28.8.52

Ldn 984

to: robb, chief, isd, wahnheide  
repeated to : turner, information services, berlin.  
from: moore g.i.d.

16.8.52. (pc10214/34)

49  
my letter pc10214/34 of 15th august. mr hynd tells  
me that he he purposely did not send on the final page  
of arno scholz's letter since it concerned private  
matters only and added no more to this particular case.

shall therefore expect to hear from you soon on the basis  
of the enclosures to my letter.

ends/men/1217+

12 17/ 16/8 AS



Mr. Bell

foto 49 & pp.

Are you at all interested  
in this imbrolio, or content  
to leave it to Turner &  
me? You will see that he is  
to furnish material for reply.

He should return to  
me in a week's time.

Chief

unread

I don't think I can help matters  
along, but am naturally interested  
& prepared to help where I can.

19/8

met 20/8 26/8 Ree  
by 19/8



31/5/11

52

27

Chief

berlin b4 - 30 - 21/8 th1 1315a/1320a

from:- 1sb berlin from turner  
to :- 1sd wahn rheide for chief

1sbe/07/03(.) letter now received (.) <sup>7</sup>ym preparing comments  
which should provide satisfactory reply(.) advisable however  
that we both see text of f.o. letter you mentioned(.)

sent ber by hand b4....21/8/1321a pk  
rd by wahn b4.....21/8/1321a pe

Telprint sent to G.I.D.

This message received  
me at 5.15 pm. today,  
August 26th., for the first  
time - and then only  
because of b.m. on 26/8/51.  
Why was this? - much 26/8

Mr. Robt. <sup>mult. 2018</sup>

This was filed away  
inadvertently as it was not Spandauer Volksblatt.  
understood that you had  
not seen it - many  
apologies.

Hubmann.  
27/8.

Registry



wahn s 16 - 50 - 26/8/52 - th1 1740

48 53  
chief

from : robb isd wahnheide

to : chaput de saintonge g i d London

at.  
28.11.52

it would be helpful if we and berlin could  
receive copies of minister of state's Letter  
referred to in moore's Letter pc 10214/34 of august  
15th. +

ends +

Int  
incl  
27/8

sent wahnheide by auto...26/8/1952 ba +  
rd by confolk.....26/8/sent +



49  
54

Wahnerheide 360

ISD/31/5/11

27th August, 1952.

52

Owing to a hitch here your teleprint ISBE/07/03 of August 21st did not reach me until yesterday evening, when I sent a teleprint to G.I.D. asking for copies, for us and for you, of the letter from the Minister of State to Hynd referred to in Moore's letter of August 15th. We should receive this copy soon but, in the meantime, I shall hope to receive your comments on what we have so far.

53

see folio 56-49

M.A. Robb

Noted. *Bl.*  
28. VIII. 52

Your favourite child.

G. Turner Esq.,  
Senior Information Services Officer,  
(1) BERLIN-Wilmersdorf,  
Fehrbelliner Platz 4,  
Lancaster House.

encl  
27/8

FILE



There has never been any question of the British Authorities in Berlin failing to recognise the rights of the S.P.D. in the "Volksblatt", because in the legal sense they had no rights to be recognised. Lezinsky adopted the same title as a previous S.P.D. paper which had ceased publication for thirteen years with no opposition from the S.P.D. Party. The paper was published and developed by Lezinsky's effort and is the sole property of his family.

The S.P.D. in Berlin are not in any way deprived of any acceptable outlet in West Berlin. In June, 1946, a licence was granted to the S.P.D. for a paper entitled the "Sozialdemokrat", the licensees being the chairman and officers of the S.P.D. In 1950 the title of this paper was changed to "Berliner Stadtblatt". This paper failed financially and ceased publication on the 19th May, 1951, but the licence has not been withdrawn. On the contrary, it has been allowed to cover the publication of an S.P.D. weekly, the "Berliner Stimme". The S.P.D. therefore have a weekly publication and can revive a daily newspaper whenever they decide to do so. Should they wish a second licence there is no reason why they should not apply for it.

You rang up the Foreign Office on Wednesday evening in connexion with a further development in this matter, and spoke to Mr. Moore of German Education and Information Department. I understand that you said that you had heard from Herr Heine in Germany that Frau Lezinsky had appointed an editor of the "Volksblatt" who had not the confidence of the S.P.D., and that you asked us to investigate this. It is true that Frau Lezinsky has now appointed an editor. He is Herr Schöpflin, who was former business-manager of the paper under Erich Lezinsky. He is a reputable journalist and was a licensee and a member of the editorial staff of the now defunct S.P.D. paper "Sozialdemokrat". The British Authorities in Germany have no reason to believe that he will fail to implement Frau Lezinsky's written undertaking that the "Volksblatt" will maintain in the future the lines followed by her husband in the past.

Sgnd. Minister of State



Spandau COPY

55-B

FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S.W. 1

(PC 10214/26)

7th July, 1952.

You wrote to the Foreign Secretary who is at present indisposed on the 20th May concerning the Berlin newspaper "Spandauer Volksblatt". The matter has now been looked into and it appears that there is some discrepancy between the account given in your letter and the actual facts.

On the 1st March, 1946, a licence was granted to Erich Lezinsky for a paper to be named the "Spandauer Volksblatt", which, however, since the 1st January, 1948, has been known as "Volksblatt". There is no evidence apart from Scholz's recollections that the Social Democratic Party supported Lezinsky at that time. We were anxious to start a paper in Spandau and Lezinsky would, in fact, have been granted a licence whether he had S.P.D. support or not. We would not, however, have agreed to the title if there had been S.P.D. opposition. Lezinsky bought all the equipment and plant and the present owners are the Lezinsky family. There is no S.P.D. interest. Moreover, there is no evidence to show that the paper has, in fact, been conducted "on behalf of the S.P.D." On the contrary, the first issue of the newspaper openly declared that it was an independent newspaper and did not have any political party commitments. Nevertheless, Lezinsky followed the main lines of S.P.D. policy and to that extent has been acceptable to S.P.D. members.

Shortly before his death Lezinsky wished to appoint his son and his business manager as co-licensees of the paper. When the S.P.D. in Berlin protested against this request Mr. Turner, of our Information staff in Berlin, suggested to the S.P.D. that they should negotiate with Lezinsky and endeavour to put up mutually acceptable nominees as licence holders. At this time and subsequently every encouragement was given by Information Services Branch to the S.P.D. and the Lezinsky family to come to agreement.

On the death of Lezinsky it was necessary to appoint new licence holders otherwise the paper could not have continued publication. The Berlin Authorities appointed as temporary licence holders the persons mentioned in your letter, who are respectively the owner, the business manager, and the deputy editor. The temporary licences were extended until the 30th June, 1952, but a permanent licence has now been issued to the widow, Frau Lezinsky, as sole licensee. Frau Lezinsky was the only nominee acceptable both to the owners and to the S.P.D., though the latter apparently do not consider her qualified to be the sole licensee. She has expressed her intention to continue the newspaper on the same lines upon which it was conducted by her husband. As long as she obeys the licensing regulations the licence now vested in her is permanent and there can be no question of altering it.

/There

J. B. Hynd, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
S.W. 1.

*Correct - per 55-A.  
(a cut of description in  
London!)*

*H. G. H.*

*Received 8 Sept. -*

*Copy for Mr. Robb,*

*Wahnerheide.*

*I thought a copy*

*turned up last week?*

*encl. 4/5*

*Conf. Waker Teleprint 516 of*

*26th August to G.D.*



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/ true



COPY

FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S.W.1.

(PC 10214/26)

7th July, 1952.

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/On

J. B. Hynd, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
S.W.1.



I. O.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/C		
NEWS ROOM		
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		

95

**WANN**

2 SEP 1952

FILE 31/5/11

28th August, 1952.

With Mr. R.A. Chaput de Saintonge's compliments.

*Mr. Chief*

*You will see that I asked  
this. I assume that a copy  
will have gone to Berlin too.*

M.A. Robb, Esq.,  
Information Services Division,  
22(C) WÄHNERHEIDE,  
Rheinland.

*encl 1/9*

*You - Turner has received  
a copy. Tel.  
1.14.52.*



Comments on Scholz's Letter

Erich Lezursky had SPD support in obtaining the licence of "Volksblatt":

Correct. He had the public support of all four Parties in Spandau for his declared intention of starting a newspaper uncommitted to any Political Party.

He belonged to Konzentration GmbH:

Correct. But, as reported in para. 17 of ISBE/07/03 of 25 March, he protested to that organisation that his was not a Socialist publishing house and would not agree to it being announced as such.

He made financial contributions to the SPD.

Correct. In no way surprising in view of his lifelong socialist record. In every country people make contributions to political Parties without risking the charge of their business belonging to the Party.

SPD and "Telegraph" assisted with the purchase of the Spandau property:

Correct (see para. 18 of ISBE/07/03 of 25 March). This was in September 1947 after "Volksblatt", initially financed by Lezursky money, had been running for eighteen months. It was a loan, subsequently repaid, made against good security. It concerned property and not the newspaper.

The SPD did not sell the newspaper to Lezursky:

We have not heard any suggestion that such a transaction took place or was discussed.

There was a gentleman's agreement between the SPD and Lezursky that he should hold the licence as trustee for the Party and that there should be some reversion to them later on:

This is possible. It is unsupported by documentary evidence. As Lezursky is dead the truth cannot be checked. Lezursky could not make any binding agreement as the licence was not transferrable property.

Schroder had a great part in the development of "Volksblatt":

Freely acknowledged although he was not with it from the start. ISB had long favoured and advanced his claims for recognition as a licence holder but had no means of enforcing this. Before the new licence was granted. Frau Lezursky gave an assurance she wished his services to continue. ISB has expressed to him the hope that, in his disappointment at not getting higher office than he held under Erich Lezursky, he will not resign. We have had no report of him being discharged and I am constantly in contact.



56A

CONFIDENTIAL

No documentary evidence has been produced to support the SPD contention that there was an agreement between Lezinsky and themselves regarding the future of the newspaper. If it was intended to hand it over to SPD influence or control at some subsequent date it appears doubtful whether the flag of independence would have been nailed so firmly to the masthead on the first issue. Or that all four permitted political parties would so willingly have united in supporting Lezinsky's application.

That Lezinsky subsequently made financial contributions to the SPD appears to be beside the point. In view of his lifelong connection with the Party it would have been surprising if he had not supported them. If one follows the SPD inference to its final conclusion those who supported a Political Party with money earned in their business risk the Party staking a claim in its ownership or management.

Regarding the local conditions which it is suggested influenced the original licensing of "Volksblatt", it is important to point out that "Tagesspiegel" is not a CDU newspaper but one which has always been noted for the very independent and individualistic views of its chief editor and licence holder. If any balancing of its city-made circulation or influence was intended this would have been done with much more efficiency by the licensing of "Telegraf" which occurred only two days after the "Volksblatt" began publication and which began printing the same month. For, from the first, "Volksblatt" has been primarily a local newspaper serving a specific area with a centuries old tradition of local patriotism and independence from the rest of Berlin.

It is incorrect that there has been a rigid rule that licenses should only be granted to experienced and responsible journalists. In many ways such a strict condition would have been desirable but it was one not capable of achievement in every locality. Numbers of non-journalist licence holders were appointed. If you desire any confirmation on this point the names can be supplied of some who took office as early as the spring of 1946.

There is not and never has been any question of a license being transferrable as part of a deceased persons's estate. This is covered by our licensing regulations and, as such, has been observed.

You appear to have been misinformed about the events which occurred around the time of Lezinsky's death. The temporary licence holders charged with the conduct of the newspaper pending the appointment of a new licence-holder were nominated on March 6, the actual day Lezinsky died. At this time the SPD had not made any approach to Information Services in Berlin regarding the nomination of their candidates, that notification of intention being by a letter dated March 7, the names being submitted in a letter dated March 8. (As your letter states "no reply was received from Information Services Branch" it seems you were not informed that Information Services Branch formally acknowledged the receipt of the SPD proposals; subsequently asked for the provision of any documents in support of the contention that the licence holders should be trustees for the SPD; arranged and attended an interview with Herr Kurt Mattick to hear the SPD arguments, and formally notified Herr Mattick of the decision which had been reached.

While, on the one hand, there is this complaint of neglect of the SPD there is a conflicting suggestion that Information Services did take their viewpoint into consideration with an inference that by so doing an acknowledgment was made of the SPD case. It will be agreed that the impartial investigation of conflicting statements or evidence does not imply a pre-judgment of an issue. Neither did concurrence with an informal suggestion that, if they desired, the representatives of the two sides should talk over their differences commit Military Government to any viewpoint. It would undoubtedly have been wrong to put obstacles in the way of an amicable settlement had one been possible through such a meeting.



56

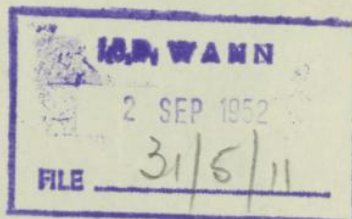
Our Ref.: LSRE/07/07

Your

Telephone:

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2

CONFIDENTIAL



30th August, 1952

Dear *Michael*

Reference your *ISO/31/5/11* of 27 August: - 54

I am certain you will agree it is impossible to write an adequate letter until we know exactly what the Foreign Office said to John Hynd and whether we have the necessity to cover up diplomatically any errors they may have made in rewriting our facts and arguments.

In the meantime I send, as requested, the background draft I mentioned in my teleprint. I have been sitting on it expecting the copy of the F.O. letter. Also enclosed are some comments on the Scholz letter which might be useful to you.

You will notice I have omitted any reference to the title question in my draft. I feel that at I.S.D. you are much more competent to comment on the legal implications of this aspect. As I see it from a layman's angle, this is "Volksblatt's" difficulty. So long as licensing continues they should be all right, as the newspaper received its title from I.S.D. in 1946. Afterwards they most probably will be in a position of vulnerability for having someone's property even though the title of the present newspaper is "Spandauer Volksblatt" and the pre-Hitler SPD publication was simply "Volksblatt".

If I happened to be in the Lezinsky shoes I think I would apply for a change of title even though it meant some present loss of circulation. On several occasions I have wondered if I ought to drop the suggestion into Frau Lezinsky's ear. It might save her a lot of trouble later on. And it would knock the bottom out of the present SPD argument for I sense from Hynd's letter that they feel this is their only good weapon. At any rate their case has now broken into two parts.

It may be that the "Volksblatt" is thinking that way: a recent change of masthead (enclosed) brings "Spandauer" into much greater prominence than "Volksblatt".

Yours

*Samuel*  
*George Turner*

M. A. Robb, Esq.,  
Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
(22c) Wahnerheide,  
Rheinland.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	<i>Blanc</i>	
D/P & F		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
INF. CENTRES		
COMMUNICATIONS		



Spandauer Volksblatt received its licence in March 1946. It appeared with that masthead until 1 January 1948 when a change to "Volksblatt" was permitted.

The licence is for "Spandauer Volksblatt" to which masthead there was a reversion on 1 July 1952 when Frau Lezinsky became licence-holder, the title again matching the licence.

Attached are copies of mastheads showing the changes during the past 12 months - notably the new one which emphasises "Spandauer" as distinct from "Volksblatt".



## „Das Oberkommando der Wehrmacht gibt bekannt ...“

Begegnung mit Martin H. Sommerfeldt

wesch. Bonn, im August 1952  
Tantalus kann kaum größere Qualen ausgestanden haben als ich, der bei 33 Grad Hitze — im Schatten gemessen — den Bonner Talweg hinunterschleicht. Hier aber ist kein Schatten um die frühe Mittagsstunde, und die Thermometer an den Optikergeschäften zeigen in der prallen Glut nahezu 40 Grad an.

Gern hätte ich meinen Besuch telefonisch angemeldet, aber das Telefonieren ist gegenwärtig in Bonn eine Art Tabu. Es gibt noch ein Amt mit

der Münchener Hauptkammer gänzlich losgesprochen.

In Berchtesgaden reifte in ihm der Plan zu einer gnadenlosen Darstellung der Berichterstattung des Oberkommandos, die ihm aus seiner jungen Tätigkeit als Sprecher des OKW in all ihren Unaufrichtigkeiten, mit allen ihren Winkelzügen bekannt geworden war. In wenigen Wochen, rechtzeitig zur Buchmesse in Frankfurt a. M., wird dieses Memoirenwerk unter dem Titel „Das Oberkommando der Wehrmacht gibt bekannt ...“ in der Westdeutschen

daß sie in Westdeutschland viel erfolgreicher Ansatzpunkte findet als in Westberlin, wo man, sozusagen im politischen Nahkampf und angesichts der drohenden Gefahr hart geworden ist im Nehmen. Hier trifft man gelegentlich auf den Vorschlag, man werde doch wohl die Ostzone abschreiben müssen. Ist man erst dahin gelangt, wird auch die Preisgabe Berlins von gewissen, sehr kurzsichtigen Kreisen in Westdeutschland achselzuckend als Notwendigkeit bezeichnet werden. Einen solchen Standpunkt können nur

## VOIKSBILDT Was wir meinen

### Zur Abwechslung: Oesterreich

wesch. — Mit recht massiven Beschuldigungen wendet sich Moskau durch seinen Hohen Kommissar in Oesterreich, Swiridow, gegen Oesterreich. Kein gutes Haar wird an der österreichischen Regierung gelassen, und der hohe sowjetische Herr versteigt sich sogar zu der Drohung, daß die österreichische Verfassung — zumindest in den Augen des Kremls — keine Gültigkeit habe.

Erst vor kurzem hatten die Sowjets Einspruch gegen Gespräche eingelegt, die Bundeswirtschaftsminister Dr. ... mit dem österreichischen Han-

auf Kosten Geschädigter finanzielle Vorteile zu verschaffen.

Im großen und ganzen aber geht der stärkste Widerstand von der Sowjetunion aus, die es bisher verstanden hat, den österreichischen Staatsvertrag immer wieder zu verzögern, obwohl sein Gerippe in bisher 258 Sitzungen mühsam Stück für Stück zusammengeflückt wurde. Wenn das schon einem Lande geschieht, das von den Alliierten nicht als Feindstaat behandelt werden sollte, braucht man sich keinen großen Illusionen darüber hinzugeben, wie lange voraussichtlich etwaige Verhandlungen um einen Frie-



21 August 1952



# Spandaaner VOLKSBLATT

NR. 1901 / 7. JAHRGANG  
PREIS 15 PL. / AUSW. 20 PL.

Berlin, Sonnabend, 30. August 1952

Heute lesen Sie:  
Weltreise in zwei Stunden

UNABHÄNGIGE TAGESZEITUNG FÜR SPANDAU UND ANGRENZENDE GEBIETE



# Katastrophen über Badeorte

Feriengebiete in England verwüstet / Hochwasser — Taifun — Hitze — Kälteeinbruch

Hamburg (dpa). Aus den verschiedensten Teilen der Welt trafen am Sonnabend Nachrichten von schweren Unwetterschäden ein. Eines der beliebtesten britischen Feriengebiete an der Nordküste der Grafschaft Devonshire bot am Sonnabend ein Bild der Verwüstung.

Ein schweres Unwetter hat durch wolkenbruchartigen Regen in Norddevon in der Nacht zum Sonnabend mehrere bekannte Kurorte von der Außenwelt abgeschnitten. Tote und Verletzte gefordert, die Viehbestände pelchitet und einen bisher unübersehbaren Sachschaden angerichtet. Truppen wurden eingesetzt, um der Polizei und der Feuerwehr bei den Bergungsarbeiten zu helfen. Die Flüsse Exe, Barle und

Taifun mit einer Stundengeschwindigkeit von über 150 Kilometer. In der Türkei herrscht seit Tagen eine selbst für diese Breitengrade ungewöhnliche Hitze. Temperaturen bis zu 40 Grad im Schatten werden gemessen. Im türkischen Verteidigungsministerium erlag am Freitag ein Major am Schreibtisch einem Hitzschlag. Auch die Wiener stöhnten unter der Hitze. Tausende schliefen in der Nacht zum Sonnabend im Freien. Die am Freitag gemessene

in der Nacht zum Sonnabend unter den Gefrierpunkt.

## Steinlawinen von der Zugspitze

Garmisch (AP). Schwere Gewitterstürme, die Steinschläge auslösten, suchten am Sonnabend den Zugspitzgipfel heim. Die Temperatur sank von 13 auf 3 Grad Celsius.

Die am Zugspitzplatt stationierten Grenzpolizisten mußten vor den herabprasselnden Steinlawinen Dekkung in den Verbindungsstellen v Deutschland nach Oesterreich suchen, da ihr Unterkunftsstand gefährdet

## VOLKSBLATT Was wir meinen

### Wir leben doch nicht auf dem Dorf!

LM — Spät fand Spandau zu Groß-Berlin. Es wurde eingemeindet, Bezirk unter Bezirken, aber nicht „einverleibt“, nicht „geschluckt“. Ein Rest von Eigenleben, von Selbständigkeit blieb im Leben der Spandauer; das Selbstbewußtsein einer Sonderstellung, die man sich durch geographische Lage, Geschichte und Leistungen verdient hat. Ein wenig wohnen wir auch für unsere übrigen Berliner Landsleute noch recht weit am Rande; sie finden die Reise von Zehlendorf nach den Rehbergen beispielsweise bei weitem nicht so strapazios wie eine Fahrt nach Spandau.

vergessen, die zum Teil hervorragende, pädagogisch verdienstvolle Dirigenten haben. Und dennoch ist das alles zu wenig, wenn es gilt, das Spandauer Kulturleben als Ganzes zu aktivieren. Zusammenfassung tut not, gegenseitige Förderung muß erstrebt und ein Publikum muß gewonnen werden, das mitmacht, seine Künstler und intellektuellen Mentoren nicht im Stich läßt und dadurch weithin sichtbare Erfolge ermöglicht.

1945 war wie in so vielem auch hierin ein Anfang. Wir erinnern uns, daß sich unter der Aegide des damaligen Bürgermeisters, der Bezirksstadträte, Künstler, Aerzten, Geistlichen,



1 July 52 - 20 August 52



Spandaaner

VOLKSBLATT

Berlin, Sonntag, 17. August 1952

NR. 1890 / 7. JAHRGANG

PREIS 20 Pf. / AUSW. 25 Pf.

UNABHÄNGIGE TAGESZEITUNG FÜR SPANDAU UND ANGRENZENDE GEBIETE



# „Versuchsbasis II“ auf Usedom

Bericht eines geflüchteten Forschers

JADA Oslo, Eigener Bericht

Dem Norweger Dipl.-Ing. Lars Conradson gelang es vor kurzem, aus den unterirdischen Werkstätten von Peenemünde-Usedom auf abenteuerliche Weise in seine Heimat zurückzukehren. Er wurde 1943 unter dem Verdacht der Spionage für Hitler-Deutschland auf einer Handelsreise durch die Sowjetunion in Moskau festgehalten und in einem Internierungslager in Sibirien untergebracht. Man hatte erfahren, daß er auf dem Gebiete der technischen Apparatkonstruktion eine Größe ist, und er wurde schließlich vor die Wahl gestellt, Zwangsarbeit oder „Mitarbeit an neuen Erfindungen“ zu leisten. Er entschied sich für die zweite Möglichkeit.

Im Sommer 1944 kam Conradson in eine ihm unbekannte Stadt auf einem Boot nach Peenemünde auf Usedom, um

die Wasserstoffbombe wurde schon gesprochen als ich noch in Kur-Turk war. Die Sowjets halten jedoch Bomben, ganz gleich, wie stark diese sind, für überholt. Es ist ihnen offenbar wiederholt gelungen, durch die laufenden Startversuche in die Grenzatmosphäre der Erde (wobei ein V-Geschoß den Anziehungspunkt unseres Planeten verlassen haben soll), ein größeres Wissen vom Ueberschall und der Strahlen sowie dem Magnetismus anzusammeln. Diese Gebiete scheinen ihre

**VOKSBIAAT** Was wir meinen

## Unser bester Freund!

Es ist schon seit langem nicht mehr feierlich mit den vielen Feiern in der sowjetisch besetzten Zone Deutschlands. Es wimmelt nur so von Festtagen, wie „Tag des Pferdes“, „Tag des Aktivisten“, „Tag der Roten Armee“, „Tag der Zuckerrübe“. Wenn das so weiter geht, wird man wohl das Erdenjahr noch um einige Wochen verlängern müssen, um die vielen

vollen Dingen verschwindet? Das wäre eine nette Freundschaft! Und nun sollen die ausgeplünderten Bewohner der Ostzone einen ganzen Monat von den Hausknechten Stalins, die sich in der SEP und ihren Massenorganisationen zusammengetan haben, beknielt und bedrückt werden, sich dieser Freundschaft dadurch würdig zu erzeigen, daß sie auf dem Altar des Götzten Stalin Zeit und Geld opfern!



1948-1952 <sup>June 30</sup>

# VOLKSBLATT

Heute: Sonntagsbeilage  
**Buntes  
Wochenend**

HERAUSGEBER UND CHEFREDAKTEUR: ERICH LEZINSKY, BERLIN-SPANDAU, NEUE  
Postcheck Berlin-West 2303 VERÖFFENTLICHT UNTER ZULASSUNG NR. 16 DER BRITISCHEN MILITÄRREGIERUNG

ASSE 101  
Post-Verlagsort: Berlin

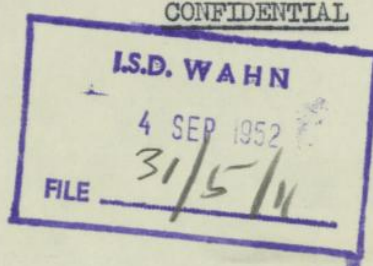
NR. 1649 / 6. JAHRGANG

BERLIN, SONNTAG, 28. OKTOBER 1951

PREIS 20 Pf. / AUSW. 25 Pf.



Our Ref: ISBE/07/03  
Your Ref:   
Telephone: 86-6737



57.

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2

2 September, 1952

To: Colonel I.C. Edwards OBE TD,  
Deputy Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
UK High Commission in Germany,  
Wahnerheide/Rheinland

Dear Ted,

Further to my letter of yesterday (forwarded under using file number - 07/07), I have now got the FO letter and have studied it.

I cannot see there are any major points to necessitate alteration of the facts in my background draft.

In para 2 of the FO letter it is stated that there is no evidence that the SPD supported Lezinsky. As mentioned in my draft, all four political Parties united in support of an independent newspaper licensed to Lezinsky - a very different thing from one Party support.

Para 3: The original suggestion of a getting together did not come from ISB but from the SPD. As you may remember, the ISD line was, very wisely, that we should not act as official negotiators, and that I suggested informally to the Lezinsky lawyer that there should be a meeting with the SPD to discover if any differences were capable of amicable adjustment. The meeting had emphatically negative results.

Para 5: In actual fact, Lezinsky did not take the precise title of the old SPD newspaper when licensing occurred. The licence was issued to "Spandauer Volksblatt". Despite the change in the masthead in 1948 that licence remained and the old masthead has returned. This, however, is a minor point in that the claim would be about the use of the word "Volksblatt" in the title of a Spandau newspaper.

Therefore, as stated, I believe you have in my background draft all that is necessary to provide the required answers to John Hynd's points.

I am attaching some notes on the title changes which I mentioned this morning.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF		
D/P & P		
QUALITY		
REPS		
NEWS ROOM		
PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
COMMUNICATIONS		

Yours Sincerely

*George Turner*

(G. TURNER)

Senior Information Services Officer.

Enc. X



There is a further point that Arno Scholz suggests that there was a gentleman's agreement between the SPD and Lezinsky that he should hold the licence as Trustee of the party and that there should be some reversion to them later on. Turner says "This is possible. It is unsupported by documentary evidence. As Lezinsky is dead the truth cannot be checked. Lezinsky could not make any binding agreement as the licence was not transferrable property."

There is one point which might be relevant to the <sup>title</sup> issue: namely that Lezinsky did not take the precise title of the old SPD newspaper when the licence was first issued. The licence was issued to Spandauer Volksblatt. Despite the change in the masthead in 1948 that licence remained and the old masthead has now returned. Turner attaches to his letter at folio 57 some notes on the title changes.

*G. Stephenson*  
(G. Stephenson)

5 September, 1952



We do not deny that, as far as was possible, we wished to avoid the conflict between the SPD and Lezinsky family but, as Turner says, (folio 57) "the original suggestion of a getting together did not come from I.S.B. but from the SPD. As you may remember the I.S.D. line was, very wisely, that we should not act as official negotiators, and that I suggested informally to the Lezinsky lawyer that there should be a meeting with the SPD to discover if any differences were capable of amicable adjustment. The meeting had emphatically negligible results." In other words, in doing what we did we were not acknowledging the claims of the SPD but we were trying to avoid a conflict between the SPD and the Lezinsky family.

Mr. Hynd's letter, paragraph 5.

He says that the SPD received no reply from I.S.B. to their suggestion that Schilling, the Burgomeister of Spandau, should be appointed as the third trustee; as Schöpflin <sup>was</sup> not acceptable to the party.

Turner says that these proposals were formally acknowledged and that I.S.B. subsequently asked for the provision of any documents in support of the contention that the licence holders should be trustees for the SPD; arranged and attended an interview with Herr Kurt Mattick to hear the SPD arguments and formally notified Herr Mattick of the decision which had been reached.

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 6.

Mr. Hynd says that Lezinsky made monthly contributions to the party from the paper's earnings. He also says that so far as concerns the purchase of the machines, etc. by Lezinsky, not one penny was subscribed by Lezinsky himself and the party holds receipts for the whole of the money that was advanced to Lezinsky for the purchase. As Turner says, the financial contributions to the SPD made by Lezinsky are beside the point. His life-long connection with the party has never been denied and it would have been surprising if he had not supported them. Regarding the purchase of the Spandau property, this was done in September, 1947, after Volksblatt, initially financed by Lezinsky money, had been running for 18 months. It was a loan, subsequently repaid, made against good security. It concerned property and not the newspaper.

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 7.

This concerns property rights and the desire of the SPD to retain the title of their paper. I cannot offer any comment here. Turner's views are set out in his letter at folio 56.

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 8.

Mr. Hynd asks why in this case the hitherto rigid rule that these licences can only be issued to experienced, responsible journalists has now been broken. He also says that presumably there could be no question of a licensee disposing of a licence in his will.

On the first point Turner says that it is incorrect that there has been a rigid ruling in this matter. Numbers of non-journalist licence holders were appointed and names can be produced if desired.

On the second point Mr. Hynd is quite correct.

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 9.

This again concerns the SPD right to the title of the paper.

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 10.

This is covered by the reply to the second point of his paragraph 8.



Confidential

(58)

Ref: ISD.31/5/11

Deputy Chief

"Spandauer Volksblatt"

At folio 49A is a copy of a letter which Mr. Hynd wrote on August 6th in reply to a F.O. letter to him at folio 55A.

In his reply Mr. Hynd raises a number of points which we are required to answer. For the sake of convenience I have numbered the paragraphs in Mr. Hynd's letter.

George Turner's memo on Mr. Hynd's letter is at folio 56A and this, together with his letters at 56 and 57, provide the following information:-

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 2.

The suggestion here is that the SPD wanted to resume publication of the Volksblatt but since licences could not be issued to political parties they had to find a reliable person to apply for the licence and in fact Lezinsky was appointed after being endorsed by the late Dr. Schumacher.

There is no documentary evidence to support this contention. Turner says:- "If it was intended to hand it over to SPD ~~hands~~ <sup>influence</sup> or control at some subsequent date it appears doubtful whether the flag of independence would have been nailed so firmly to the masthead on a first issue or that all four political parties would so willingly have united in supporting Lezinsky's application."

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 3.

The suggestion <sup>is</sup> that the British authorities in Berlin decided to licence this particular paper because at the time they were seeking the influence of the then new SED ~~and which~~ <sup>and which</sup> to counter the influence of the Tagesspiegel already licensed by the Americans and which Mr. Hynd refers to as ~~his~~ <sup>the</sup> CDU newspaper.

The Tagesspiegel is not a CDU newspaper but, Turner says, "one which has always been noted for the very independent and individualistic views of its Chief Editor and licence holder." Turner goes on, "if any ~~influence~~ <sup>influence</sup> of its ..... influence was intended this would have been done with much more efficiency by the licencing of the Telegraf, which occurred only two days after the Volksblatt began publication and which began printing the same month. For, from the first, Volksblatt has been primarily a local newspaper serving a specific area with a century's old tradition of local patriotism and independence from the rest of Berlin."

Mr. Hynd's letter paragraph 4.

Mr. Hynd rebuts the suggestion in paragraph 2 of the F.O. letter at folio 55A that there is no evidence that the SPD supported Lezinsky at the time, quoting the following points from the same F.O. letter.

1. "We would not have agreed to the title if there had been SPD opposition."
2. On the question of the new licence "Frau Lezinsky was the only nominee acceptable to both the owners and the SPD."
3. "Every encouragement was given by I.S.B. to the SPD and the Lezinsky family to come to an agreement."



(59)

D. H. H. H.

31/5/11

59  
wahne rheide v ber b9 100 9/9 thi 1725a  
from i s b berlin from tu me r  
to i s d wahne rheide forewards  
date 9 september 1952

del.  
10.11.52

isbe/0703. reference to-day's conversation.

leader no 1 begins quote the blank is a new paper, but more than  
that - a platform for all who wish to co-operate in the  
realisation of socialism unquote.

para 4 says quote those who conduct the blank have an aim.....  
but they are bound by their conscience alone, not by political  
parties, not even to ~~the~~ socialist ones unquote.

para 5. quote ... they will put the reader in a position to  
form his own opinion. leading articles will provoke personal  
judgment, so that by and by a deepened maturity in the political  
thinking of our nation shall be achieved unquote.

para 7. quote our aims are..... a socialist planned economy  
unquote.

end of message

sent ber by hand 1730a hj  
d by wahne rheide...9/9/1732 sg



(60.)  
ISD 31/5/11

Note for File

I had intended to compare the statements on aims and affiliations of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" and the "Telegraf" in their respective first issues, in reply to the first sentence of paragraph 3 of Mr. John Hynd's letter (folio 49a).

Folio 59 gives extracts of what the "Telegraf" carried and George Turner's report (folio 32a), para. 15, gives comparative extracts "Spandauer Volksblatt".

*from*  
I decided however to keep these points for possible future use.

*Ch.*  
10th September, 1952.



18  
asked for the production of any documents in support of the contention that the licence holders should be trustees for the SPD; arranged and attended an interview with Herr Kurt Mattiok to hear the SPD arguments, and formally notified Herr Mattiok of the final decision to appoint Frau Lezinsky as sole licensee.

Mr. Hynd refers to the title of the paper and in this connection it should be borne in mind that the title of the licenced paper was "Spandauer Volksblatt", later changed to the "Volksblatt" and on the appointment of Frau Lezinsky as sole licensee it has reverted to the "Spandauer Volksblatt". The title of the original SPD paper was "Volksblatt". Regarding Lezinsky's contribution to the SPD party funds. It is not surprising that he did so contribute, but surely all business men who contribute to a political party do not thereby lay themselves open to the risk that the political party will claim their property on their death. Our information concerning the loan from the SPD to Lezinsky in September, 1947, in connection with the purchase of machinery, etc., is that this was a business loan made against good security and subsequently repaid. This however is, as Mr. Hynd says, a legal matter affecting property rights and not the newspaper.

In reply to his question as to why the "rigid rule that these licences could only be issued to experienced, responsible journalists" has now been broken. The reply is that such a rigid rule did not exist. The desirability of such a rule cannot be questioned but in certain localities it certainly could not have been applied. Therefore a number of non-journalist licence holders were appointed. An example of this is the case of Herr Fritz Heine who was given the licence for the "Hannoversche Presse". His name was put forward by the SPD and very strongly pressed by the party. Many other similar instances could be quoted of SPD and other political party nominees. As Mr. Hynd says, there can be no question of a licensee disposing of a licence in his will, hence the discussions in Berlin prior to the granting of the licence to Frau Lezinsky.

Mr. Hynd states that what the SPD are concerned about at the moment is recovering the right to the title of their paper "Volksblatt". This is a somewhat reduced claim to that originally put forward by the SPD. If this is really the crux of the matter I would suggest that the SPD put their objection to our Berlin authorities who will undoubtedly give the objection full consideration.

Copy to:- George Turnver, Esq.,  
Senior Information Services Officer,  
(1) Berlin.

FILE



From: Col. I. C. Edwards, OBE, TD.

81.

Wahnerheide 197

ESD 31/5/11

10 September, 1952.

*Mr. Ed.*

-49

In reply to your letter reference PC. 10214/34 dated 15th August, 1952, which enclosed a copy of a letter written by Mr. John Hynd to the Minister of State regarding the "Spandauer Volksblatt". I regret the delay in answering but copies of the letters requested by Michael only reached us last week.

I will go through Mr. Hynd's letter and endeavour to deal with the various points he raised in chronological order.

No documentary evidence has been produced to support the SPD contention that there was agreement between Lezinsky and themselves regarding the future of the newspaper. Incidentally all the four permitted political parties then in Berlin (not only the SPD) united in supporting the choice of Lezinsky as licensee, hence his claim, from the first issue of his paper to his death, that his paper was independent. We have no record of agreement or objection on the part of the SPD for the choice of title for the paper but it is common-sense to assume that there was no objection from them.

If, as Mr. Hynd suggests, the "Spandauer Volksblatt" -- a small local paper, was licenced in order to balance the American licenced "Tagesspiegel", the balance would have been somewhat uneven. Surely it would be more reasonable to assume that we licenced the "Telegraf", which incidentally received its licence two days after the "Spandauer Volksblatt", as a counter-balancing agent.

The fact that when the licence was originally issued and when consideration was being given to a suitable licensee or licensees vice the deceased Erich Lezinsky, the British authorities in Berlin endeavoured to act in a manner that would avoid political or other friction, should not be taken as an indication that later claims by any political party based only on "recollections" are or were accepted. When this dispute arose following Erich Lezinsky's death, the initial suggestion that the SPD and the Lezinsky family should get together and discuss the matter was not made by the British authorities in Berlin but by the SPD. The British authorities quite rightly did their best with both parties to bring about such a meeting. In acting in this way we were not acknowledging the claims of the SPD but were trying to avoid friction.

Regarding the alleged failure of the British authorities in Berlin to reply to the SPD proposal that Herr Schilling, the SPD Burgermeister of Spandau, should be one of the licensees. I fear that Mr. Hynd has been misinformed. This proposal was formally acknowledged and the British authorities subsequently

/asked

J. Moor, Esq.,  
Foreign Office,  
German Information Department,  
London, S.W.1.

FILE



62

31/5/11

wahne rheide v ber b9 100 9/9 thi 1725a  
from i s b berlin from turner  
to i s d wahne rheide forewards  
date 9 september 1952

59 isbe/0703. reference to-day's conversation.

leader no 1 begins quote the blank is a new paper, but more than  
that - a platform for all who wish to co-operate in the  
realisation of socialism unquote.

para 4 says quote those who conduct the blank have an aim.....  
but they are bound by their conscience alone, not by political  
parties, not even to the socialist ones unquote.

para 5. quote ... they will put the reader in a position to  
form his own opinion. leading articles will provoke personal  
judgment, so that by and by a deepened maturity in the political  
thinking of our nation shall be achieved unquote.

para 7. quote our aims are..... a socialist planned economy  
unquote.

end of message

sent ber by hand 1730a hj  
by wahne rheide...9/9/1732 sg



COPY

Our Ref.: ISBE/02/21

Telephone: 86 67 37

11. September 1952

Herrn  
Karl Wiegner  
Presseverband Berlin  
Berlin W 30  
Rankestr. 19

Sehr geehrter Herr Wiegner!

Ich beziehe mich auf unsere gestrige Unterhaltung ueber  
die Grundsätze der Lizenzierung.

Ich waere sehr dankbar, wenn mir der Ausschuss des Presse-  
verbandes ein offizielles Schreiben mit den an uns gerichteten  
Fragen zukommen lassen wuerde, damit dieses Anliegen ueber-  
prueft werden kann.

Hochachtungsvoll!

ID

Sgd. (G. TURNER)  
Senior Information Services Officer.

Abschrift an:  
Dr. Kurt Hirche  
Vorsitzender des  
Presseverbandes Berlin



4 All are capable of brief answers. The question is one of principle - if and how far Military Government should account to an outside body for its actions; and whether, if information is given, it should be strictly confidential.

5 Yesterday Wiegner saw Elmer Cox at HICOG regarding "Morgenpost" and "Anzeiger" arguing that it was immoral for a newspaper to be sold out and so endanger the future of the journalists it employed. Cox appears to have been annoyed at what he felt was interference.

Yours sincerely

*G. Turner*

(G. TURNER)



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86-6737

CONFIDENTIAL

63  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2

I.S.D. WAHN

15 SEP 1952

FILE

31/5/11

12th September, 1952

Dear *Feed,*

Reference our conversation of yesterday:

2 Attached is copy of letter sent to Karl Wiegner, with a copy for Kurt Hirche, the Chairman of the Presseverbande. As you will observe it asks that the matter be put on a formal official basis without committing us to giving the answers. The Presseverbande was ill-advised to send as emissary one whose last visit here was as a representative of Arno Scholz in the "Volksblatt" affair. I imagine Wiegner volunteered for the role as an information finder for his masters.

3 His approach was that licensing of newspapers was a matter of direct concern to the journalistic profession whose interests had to be safeguarded. After consideration of the matter of licensing by their Committee to-day they intended to discuss it further at a full members meeting on Sunday. The questions of the licences of "Morgenpost", "Berliner Anzeiger" and "Volksblatt" were highly relevant. Incidentally, he said that he was personally in favour of licensing continuing in the present Berlin circumstances. He also expressed the view that newspapers should not make big profits for individuals.

The points on which he wanted information were:

- (a) Is a licence inheritable.
- (b) Why was Frau Lezinsky given the licence.
- (c) Why was the licence not given to Schroder as the most practical newspaperman on "Volksblatt".
- (d) Is the principle of licensing that licences should be given to individuals as trustees for the public rather than to persons who will use them for their own material benefit.

/All are

*See Folio 65/64*

Colonel I. C. Edwards, O.B.E., T.D.,  
Deputy Chief,  
Information Services Division,  
U.K. High Commission in Germany,  
(22c) WÄHNERHEIDE, Rheinland.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		16/9
D/CHIEF		
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		15/9
COMMUNICATIONS		



Reference ISD 31/5/11

Chief  
*mad.*

Please see folio 63.

Turner phoned me about this on 12th September and I suggested that he should reply on the lines of para 4 of his letter. I do not know what view Pumphrey and Rose will take of this matter in Berlin, but Turner will keep us informed.

15 September, 1952.

Cl.

*mad. 17/9*

*I think  
presumably.  
mad.  
16/9*

Chief.

Altho Turner does not say so in his letter he has, of course, reported to Pumphrey. He made his view to me when we discussed the matter & before he wrote folio 63. I implied this in my final sentence or thought I had.

Cl.  
16.11.52.



# Information Services Branch — Londoner Informationen

## LONDON SCHWEIGT UEBER ANGLOSAECHSISCH-PERSISCHE VERHANDLUNGEN

L o n d o n, d. 28.8.52

Der Bericht des britischen Geschaefststraegers in Teheran ueber seine gestrige Unterredung mit dem persischen Ministerpraesidenten Mossadeq, an der auch der amerikanische Botschafter teilnahm, wird im Foreign Office studiert. Sprecher lehnen jeden Kommentar zu Fragen ab, ob bei der Unterredung irgendwelche Fortschritte erzielt werden konnten.

LI (b) 92 b  
P



# Die Zeitungslizenz überholt

a. s. Als die Alliierten 1945 Deutschland besetzten und alle staatlichen Einrichtungen auflösten, wurde auch das Weitererscheinen der bis zur Kapitulation bestehenden gebliebenen Zeitungen und Zeitschriften unterbunden.

Die Alliierten schufen Lizenzierungsgesetze und vergaben nach deren Bestimmungen an Personen, die sie sorgfältig geprüft hatten, Lizenzen zur Herausgabe von Zeitungen und Zeitschriften. Im Jahre 1948 wurde die Lizenzierung in der Bundesrepublik aufgehoben, in Berlin aber wegen der besonderen politischen Situation beibehalten.

Dem für die Lizenzierungen zuständigen Kulturkomitee der Alliierten Kommandantur in Berlin wurde jedoch ein beratender Ausschuss beigegeben, in den deutsche Persönlichkeiten des politischen Lebens, Journalisten und Verleger berufen wurden.

Es ist damals in Aussicht gestellt worden, die Lizenzierung später entweder überhaupt wegzulassen oder in deutsche Hände zu legen. Ein Pressegesetz sollte für den letztgenannten Fall dazu die Voraussetzungen schaffen.

Unter den Alliierten wie auch bei den maßgeblichen Stellen im Senat, ja selbst unter den Verlegern und Journalisten, gab es Meinungsverschiedenheiten darüber, ob die Nachteile einer Lizenzierung aufgewogen werden durch die Möglichkeit, ein Zuviel an Zeitungen und Zeitschriften sowie kommunistischen Einfluß auf sie zu verhindern, so lange Berlin eine Insel ist.

Der Beratende Deutsche Lizenzierungsausschuss mußte im Laufe seiner Tätigkeit des öfteren feststellen, daß seine Vorschläge bei der Vergabe von Lizenzen nicht beachtet wurden. Sogar in Fällen, in denen von deutscher Seite starke Bedenken gegen Antragsteller zum

Ausdruck kamen, sind doch Lizenzen erteilt worden.

Journalisten und Verleger, die sich — ehe sie eine Lizenz bekamen — gründlichen Prüfungen über ihre politische und fachliche Eignung unterwerfen mußten, erlebten kürzlich mit Erstaunen, daß eine Zeitungslizenz — die durch

also bereit, die Lizenzträger des „Berliner Anzeiger“ mit 2½ Millionen DM abzufinden. 30 Jahre lang sollen Journalisten, Drucker und Botenfrauen diese Summe mit erarbeiten.

Das Erscheinen einer Zeitung war nach 1945 sicherlich abhängig

Diejenigen, die eine Lizenz erhielten, hatten damit eine Monopolstellung und einen Start, der ihnen größere Chancen bot als jedem anderen. Das hätte auch zur höheren Verantwortung zwingen müssen.

In dem angezogenen Falle ist auf beiden Seiten davon nichts zu spüren. In einer Stadt, in der sich 300 000 Erwerbslose und 500 000 Rentner — die tapfer die Blockade durchstanden — mit einer karg bemessenen Unterstützung durchschlagen, müssen solche Abfindungssummen aufreizend wirken.

Den Journalisten und Verlagsangestellten des „Berliner Anzeiger“ sollen ihre Rechte gesichert sein. Sie wissen aber auch, daß im Ullsteinhaus in den letzten Monaten eine Reihe Neueinstellungen vorgenommen wurden, und ahnen, daß bei der Zusammenlegung der Redaktionen viele auf der Strecke bleiben werden.

Lediglich für die Lizenzträger war die sehr kurze — dreijährige — Tätigkeit beim „Berliner Anzeiger“ ein aufgelegtes Geschäft.

Die Lizenzträger des „Telegraf“ haben anders gehandelt. Unmittelbar, nachdem sie die Lizenz erhielten, bestimmten sie, daß der Reingewinn des Verlages nur für drei fest umrissene Zwecke Verwendung finden dürfe: Erstens für den weiteren Ausbau der Verlags- und Druckereieinrichtungen, zweitens für soziale Einrichtungen der Belegschaft und drittens für politische Aufklärung im Sinne der Demokratie und der sozialen Gerechtigkeit.

Darum können die Lizenzträger des „Telegraf“ auch mit gutem Gewissen die Forderung erheben: Schluß mit der Lizenzierung! Sie hat auch in Berlin den Sinn verloren, den ihr die Besatzungsmächte 1945 geben wollten.



Erste Sitzung nach den Ferien

Der Deutsche Bundestag trat am 10. September zu seiner ersten Sitzung nach den Ferien zusammen. Im Vordergrund rechts der mit Blumen geschmückte Platz des verstorbenen SPD-Vorsitzenden Dr. Schumacher, links die Abgeordneten Paul Löbe und Louise Schroeder.

Todesfall erneuert werden mußte — an eine Hausfrau vergeben wurde, die keine verlegerische und journalistische Erfahrung hat.

Eine Besatzungsmacht gestattet eine Druckerei, einen beherrschenden Einfluß auf eine Zeitung zu nehmen, obwohl dies nach den Lizenzbestimmungen ausdrücklich verboten ist. Wenige Wochen später revidierte sie diese Haltung, um sie dann wieder neu zu bestätigen und zuletzt noch einmal zu wechseln.

Von dem Lizenzierungsausschuss ist im April dieses Jahres verlangt worden, im Eiltempo einen Antrag für die Lizenz der „Morgenpost“ durchzupauken. Als es über diesen Antrag zu Meinungsverschiedenheiten innerhalb des Beratenden Deutschen Lizenzierungsausschusses kam und dieser seine Arbeit einstellte, wurde von einer Besatzungsmacht die Lizenz sofort erteilt. Wie sich nachher herausstellte, war es gar nicht so eilig, denn die Lizenz ist nur dazu benutzt worden, um auf eine bereits bestehende Zeitung — nämlich auf den „Berliner Anzeiger“, einen Druck auszuüben.

Die Lizenzträger des „Berliner Anzeiger“ verkauften dann auch ihre Zeitung an die Ullstein A.G.

Die Lizenzträger des „Berliner Anzeiger“ haben vor drei Jahren ohne nennenswertes Kapital angefangen. Jetzt aber soll jeder eine halbe Million Abfindung erhalten, außerdem noch jeder für die Dauer von 30 Jahren eine Monatsrente von je 2000 DM. Alles in allem ist der Ullstein-Verlag

von der Initiative der Verleger, aber ebenso auch vom Fleiß vieler Mitarbeiter, angefangen beim Journalisten bis zur letzten Botenfrau.



PRESSEVERBAND BERLIN  
Berlin SW 11, Bernburger Str. 24/25 / Telephone: 66-2835/36

Berlin SW 11, 12 September, 1952

To: Information Services Branch,  
(Attention Mr. Turner),  
Fehrbelliner Platz  
Berlin-Wilmersdorf

Dear Mr. Turner,

Referring to the conversation Mr. Turner/ Herr Wiegner (member of our Committee) on 10 September on the principles of licensing and especially the granting of a licence to "Spandauer Volksblatt" we send you the requested letter:-

1. As to our opinion the granting of a licence for newspapers to a person does not include that the licence holder can claim any personal financial advantage but that he should be trustee of the public through the monopoly which has been granted to him.

What would be your answer if a paper published by licence holders is to be sold? Should the money out of the sale be given personally to the licence holders or also to those who contributed to the production of the paper and should it be used for social purposes concerning all journalists?

2. If this principle is considered it is quite impossible that a licence could be bequeathed. In the case of "Spandauer Volksblatt" where the licence - after Herr Erich Lezinsky's death - was granted to his widow who has no experience in the field of journalism this gives the impression of a heritable licence.
3. This impression arises all the more as our colleague Emil Schroeder, the only personality of "Spandauer Volksblatt" who is experienced in journalism and was also licence holder during the interregnum has not been taken into consideration at the re-issue of the licence.

We would be grateful if you could let us know your point of view concerning this matter.

Yours faithfully,  
Presseverband Berlin

Signed Wiegner



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86-6737

65  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2

Confidential!

I.S.D. WAHN

17 SEP 1952

16 Sep 1952

FILE

34/5/11

To: Colonel I.C. Edwards OBE TD  
Deputy Chief  
Information Services Division  
UK High Commission in Germany  
(22c) Wahnerheide/Rheinland

Dear Ted,

Further to my ISBE/07/03 of September 12:

The Presseverband has now sent the attached letter which follows the line indicated by Wiegner.

"Telegraf's" very close interest in the matter is emphasised by the attached leading article by Scholz in Sunday's issue. It covers the same ground as Wiegner's talk with us - proving the close liaison - although while Wiegner expressed his personal desire for licensing to continue, Scholz wishes to end it. What a pity Scholz cannot get sufficient people in high places to support him and force the Senate's hand.

I am passing copies of the correspondence to Laurie Pumphrey. In the meantime I would welcome your views for guidance upon what our attitude should be towards giving the Presseverband the requested information.

*Chief*  
*Turner keeps me that Pumphrey has said*  
*"we must not become involved in arguments*  
*justifying our action" - 22.11.52.*

GT/IH.

Copy to: Mr. J.L. Pumphrey

Yours, sincerely

*G. Turner*

(G. TURNER)  
Senior

Information Services Officer.

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	X	✓
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
COMMUNICATIONS		



663  
VOLKSBLATT

Tel. 37 43 21

Erich Lezinsky  
Verlag und Buchdruckerei GmbH.

Berlin-Spandau, Neuendorfer Str. 101.

Geschaeftsleitung

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Translation

Berlin-Spnadau,  
27th, June 1952

Information Services Branch  
British Military Government  
(Berlin) BAOR 2  
attn. Mr. Turner,

Berlin-Wilmersdorf,  
Lancaster House,

Dear Mr. Turner,

With reference to yesterday's conversation I confirm  
that I will continue my daily newspaper "SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT"  
in the same way as my husband.

Yours sincerely,

sgd. Margarete Lezinsky



## REPAYMENT TO "TELEGRAF" AND SPD BY THE LATE ERICH LEZINSKY

660

1. On 11th September, 1947 the SPD and "Telegraf" (as represented by Arno Scholz) took up share capital to the value of RM 20,000 and RM 30,000 respectively. In addition the SPD and "Telegraf" made loans of RM 180,000 and RM 270,000 respectively.
2. On 15th March, 1948 RM 90,000 of the "Telegraf" loan was repaid. At the same time share capital to the value of RM 10,000 was bought back from "Telegraf", leaving its holding at share capital of RM 20,000 and an outstanding loan of RM 180,000.
3. On 25th June, 1948, consequent on currency reform, there was a revaluation of the various holdings at the extremely favourable rate of 1 : 1, in D Marks with the exception of "Telegraf's" loan which was revalued at DM 150,000.
4. Between 23rd June and 8th August, 1948 repayments of DM 12,000 were made on the SPD loan.
5. On 21st September, 1949 the SPD holdings in share capital and loan were liquidated in the following manner:
  - (a) Lezinsky acquired share capital to the value of DM 15,000, the value of this being added to the outstanding debt from the SPD
  - (b) "Telegraf" obtained the other SPD share capital to the value of DM 5,000.
6. The amount of the total debt to the SPD was reduced by DM 38,000 to DM 145,000 in return for printing work done for and supplies of newsprint made to the SPD.
7. "Telegraf", at the same date, acquired all the SPD claims in addition to its own, giving it a total credit of DM 320,000. Of this sum DM 85,000 was repaid immediately, leaving a total debt of DM 235,000.
8. On 31st March, 1950, in return for printing services for the SPD, the debt was reduced by DM 5,000 in share capital and DM 45,000 in loans. On 18th May, 1950 "Telegraf" sold DM 10,000 in share Capital and DM 90,000 was also repaid.
9. On 26th April, 1951 "Telegraf" relinquished remaining holdings of share capital and loans for a further cash payment of DM 80,000, a dispensation for the outstanding amount of DM 5,000 being given by Scholz. For this final payment a receipt "in settlement" was given (Telegraf Receipt No. 010081).
10. On 30th April, 1951 Scholz stated in an official record before a notary (Protokoll 74 of the Urkundenrolle for 1951).

"The firm of TELEGRAF has remaining shares in the firm of Erich Lezinsky to the value of DM 10,000. These shares I relinquish in favour of the firm of Erich Lezinsky with effect from 1st May, 1951. The TELEGRAF company at the same time declares itself to be by 30th April, 1951 completely satisfied in respect of all debts claims arising out of this repudiation and previous relinquishments as well as all claims against the firm of Erich Lezinsky, in particular in respect of the loan remainder to the value of DM 70,000, and moreover in respect of all claims arising from previous relinquishments in favour of the firm of VOLKSBLATT, on whatever legal grounds they may be based."



CONFIDENTIAL 66B  
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COMMENT ON THREE POINTS IN MINUTE BY JOHN MOORE  
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- (a) ISB did not enter into any negotiations with the SPD. It invited the SPD to substantiate its claims by production of material evidence. This was then considered alongside the Lezinsky statements before a decision was reached. Neither in discussion nor correspondence with the SPD did ISB express any opinion on the validity of the SPD case of their right to nominate licence holders.
- (b) In support of the Lezinsky contention that all debts to the "Telegraf" and SPD had been discharged a statement of the various financial transactions is attached as an appendix. This contains an official statement by Scholz renouncing all claims following a final settlement in 1951. At no time had Scholz or the SPD suggested to ISB that there was money owing to them.
- (c) Also attached is a copy of the undertaking about the future conduct of the newspaper which was given to ISB by Frau Lezinsky. This was in confirmation of a verbal statement.



66A

"Spandauer Volksblatt"

The SPD's main contention seems to be

- (a) that, as a result of various interviews at the beginning of the Occupation between SPD officials and the British Control Commission (in particular Kit Steel), there was a gentlemen's agreement that the personal licence of the paper would eventually be made into an SPD licence; also that Erich Lezinsky had assured the SPD that he regarded himself as their trustee (paragraph 14 of George Turner's memorandum of the 25th March to Political Adviser).
- (b) that, in accordance with this so-called gentlemen's agreement, after the death of Erich Lezinsky the SPD had suggested three co-licensees to take over the paper, Frau Lezinsky, Schröder and Karl Schilling (both the latter being SPD members).
- (c) that, after Frau Lezinsky had objected to being nominated together with two SPD nominees, Information Services Division did not continue to take into account the SPD case and proceeded to appoint Frau Lezinsky as sole licensee without their blessing; indeed, they had previously pointed out that they would object to her being appointed as sole licensee:
- (d) that the new editor who has been appointed by Frau Lezinsky, Schöpflin, is not acceptable to the SPD.

2. ISD's replies to these points are not really convincing. They appear to deny that there was any gentlemen's agreement with the SPD. It is true that they point out that they tried several times to come to an agreement with the SPD after Frau Lezinsky had expressed her objection to working with the two SPD members as co-licensees, but no convincing reason is given as to why the final choice fell on Frau Lezinsky alone. As regards Schöpflin, ISD say they have no reason to believe that he will fail to implement Frau Lezinsky's "written undertaking" that the paper will maintain in the future the lines followed by her husband in the past.

3. After discussion with Patrick Bushe-Fox we think that the following three points might be clarified during your visit to Germany:

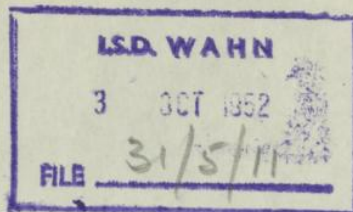
- (a) Why did ISD, after protracted discussions with the SPD regarding the future of the paper, suddenly go against the SPD's wishes and appoint Frau Lezinsky as sole licensee? Admittedly, as ISD point out, she was the only nominee acceptable to both ISD and the SPD, but the SPD's point is that she was not acceptable to them on her own.
- (b) As regards the loan to Erich Lezinsky for the purchase of the plant, Arno Scholz in his letter to John Hynd of 21st July maintains that 40,000 Reichsmarks of the loan made by the "Telegraf" remains unpaid. He does not specifically mention whether the loan made by the SPD itself (RM 200,000) remains unpaid or not. Patrick thinks it would be wise to clear this up. In paragraph 7 of his letter of 10th September Ted Edwards says that the whole loan was repaid, but this does not square with Arno Scholz's statement.
- (c) In his letter of 29th May Ted Edwards says that Frau Lezinsky has expressed her intention to continue the paper on the same lines upon which it was conducted by her husband. Apparently on the basis of this the Minister of State told John Hynd in his letter of the 7th July that Frau Lezinsky had given a written undertaking to this effect. We should determine exactly the terms of the undertaking which she made.



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone: 86 6737



CONFIDENTIAL

66  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)  
BAOR 2

2nd October, 1952

To: Deputy Chief  
Office of the Chief  
Information Services Division  
U.K. High Commission in Germany  
(22c) WAHNERHEIDE  
Rheinland

Subject: "Spandauer Volksblatt"

1. Attached are
  - (a) Minute from John Moore requesting clarification of certain points in above-mentioned matter (this was brought over by Chaput de Saintonge).
  - (b) I.S.B. comment on the three points raised.
  - (c) Appendices in support of that comment.
2. Will you please forward such of this as you consider relevant to G.I.D. in order to facilitate the reply to Mr. John H ynd.
3. An extra copy of the papers is attached for G.I.D.

*G. Turner*

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	X	6.10.52
D/P & P		
PUBLICITY		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
COMMUNICATIONS		

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Encl.

*Sfr.*  
*actions at 67.*



From: Col. I.C. Edwards, OBE, TD.

67

197

ISD/31/5/11

UK High Commission  
in Germany  
(22c)Wahnerheide/Rheinland

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

6th October, 1952

*in. A.J.*

Subject:- "Spandauer Volksblatt"

66 B.

I enclose George Turner's quite clear and I hope conclusive replies to your three questions. I am also enclosing a copy of your minute because I think Rolland left the original with George.

A point I would like to mention is the interpretation placed by London on the fact that we discussed this licensing problem with the SPD (para. 3 (a) of your minute).

Surely we could not have acted otherwise. Had we refused to listen to them then indeed the SPD could justifiably complain. The fact that both parties to a dispute are given every opportunity of stating their case does not imply acceptance of either. The question in para. 3 (a) of your minute might equally well be put to any judge, arbitrator, referee or Authority by the unsuccessful party to any dispute. In short it is "Why do you decide against me?" The answer is equally plain and is that the decision was based on the evidence produced.

In this connection you refer, para. 1 (a) of your minute, to para. 14 of George Turner's memorandum of the 25th March to the Political Adviser. You will of course have noted that in the same para. George states that Mattick's case was based on a letter from Arno Scholtz dated 22nd March 1952 containing the latter's "recollections" of what transpired in 1945. These "recollections" are disposed of by the extracts from the first issue of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" but even more definitely so by a letter written to the SPD by the deceased Erich Lezinaky in 1950 in which he states, "As you know I am no Party publishing firm..... My newspaper is considered non-political, etc., etc." (Paras. 15 and 17 of George Turner's memorandum of the 25th March refer). If Scholtz's "recollections" are correct why did the SPD not raise their point when they received this letter from Lezinaky in 1950?

32A  
- 32B

I hope you will now be able to dispose of this time-wasting dispute. If, however, we can be of any further assistance please let us know.

*Y.e.  
J.*

J. Moor, Esq.,  
Foreign Office,  
German Information Department,  
London, S.W. 1.

Copy to:- C. Turner, Esq.,  
Senior Information Services Officer,  
(1) BERLIN-Wilmersdorf,  
Fehrbelliner Platz 4,  
Lancaster House.

FILE



A N    A N S W E R

Frau M. Lezinsky has asked us to publish the following letter:

Berlin-Spandau, 1st October, 1952

To the  
SPD Spandau Kreisvorstand,  
Berlin-Spandau,  
Carl-Schurz-Strasse 18.

Re: Membership

I have had to learn that people commissioned by the Spandau SPD call on party members who have subscribed for the "Spandauer Volksblatt", persuading them to discontinue the "Spandauer Volksblatt" and to subscribe for the Berlin newspaper "Telegraf" instead.

Such procedure is monstrous and directed not only against my living base but just the same against that of my establishment which gives work and bread to many Spandau citizens.

I should not have believed ~~in~~ that subordinate bodies of the political party of which I have been a member since 20th April, 1913, would attempt to exercise pressure on their members and influence them in their free decision. I can no longer combine the Spandau SPD Kreisvorstand procedure with the idea of a free formation of will and herewith declare that I am leaving the Social Democratic Party of Germany with immediate effect.

(sd) Margarete Lezinsky, née Wäsche  
Publisher  
of "Spandauer Volksblatt"



Our Ref.:

ISBE/07/03

Your Ref.:

Telephone:

86 6737

I.S.D. WAHN

7 Oct/52

FILE

31/5/11

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
OFFICE OF POLITICAL ADVISER  
(BERLIN)

BAOR 2

3rd October, 1952

Dear

Ted,

Attached is translation of an announcement carried by  
"Spandauer Volksblatt".

Personally, I think Frau Lezinsky has been ill-advised to take  
such public action although one can understand her feelings about  
such pressure from the SPD.

The announcement makes it clear to the public that we licensed  
the newspaper to an individual who had been a Party member for al-  
most forty years and that nothing less than full subservience to the  
Party is satisfactory to them.

I imagine the pressure and the resignation will cause the news-  
paper to have a definitely less friendly tone to the SPD which means  
that we must watch closely that its tone does not become anti-SPD  
as against an Independent keynote.

Yours

*smiley*  
*George Turner*

Colonel I.C. Edwards, OBE, TD  
Deputy Chief  
Office of the Chief  
Information Services Division  
U.K. High Commission in Germany  
(22c) WAHNERHEIDE  
Rheinland

*See folio 19.*  
*encl. 1/10*

*See also 69.*



An Answer.

Frau Lezinsky has publicly declared her resignation from SPD-membership. I will not interfere with private matters, as the membership with a party is a private matter. To me only the reason for the resignation is important. If the "TELEGRAF" is the Berlin SPD-paper, the party will want their members to read the party paper. Under Hitler the party members also had to read their party-paper. What is the use of making so much noise about it?

F.K., Siemensstadt

In the "Spandauer Volksblatt" I have read that your boss has resigned her SPD-membership because the SPD wants the SPD-paper "Telegraf" to be read. I have been under the impression that everybody is free to read the paper he likes. Is it so that a party can force people to read the SPD-paper "Telegraf"? I think that nobody must be forced, as this means terrorism. In the East-Zone we also had to read the party paper, otherwise we had trouble. But in West-Berlin nobody must be forced. Formerly, I have always voted SPD. If the SPD acts like this, it does exactly what the communists do.

K.W., refugee

But we are Democrats.

Frau Lezinsky's (publisher of the "Spandauer Volksblatt") resignation from SPD-membership has opened the eyes of many old Social Democrats one of whom I am. Now we have realised what was actually going on. There are some gentlemen angry that their speculations have not been fulfilled. In the name of many Party-Colleagues I can declare that we do not allow anybody to tell us what paper to subscribe. Since we are Social - D e m o c r a t s .

A.G., Spandau

Explanation required.

In Spandau SPD circles many a rumour is circulating. One of them especially stirred up by interested circles, maintains that the "Spandauer Volksblatt" only arrived at what it is now by SPD means. As on the other hand I also learnt that Party functionaries and Party members were only looking out for a job, I as well as other Party members have gained the impression that there is a certain tendency underlying this rumour. What, actually, is the truth? I should consider it useful, if the "Spandauer Volksblatt" would give us an explanation.

P.Z., Spandau



Still we do admire his, in this respect, so robust nature which, on the other hand, reacts with an almost feminine sensibility if he himself has to parry attacks. In the same speech he attacked the Federal Press and Information Office saying: " ..... This Office prints CDU propaganda against the SPD and spreads defamations against the SPD for which we should sue any private slanderer ...."

But let us ignore Heine's discords which he has carelessly carried through the ether from the hinterland of Western Germany via the Soviet zone to the fortress Berlin. "Spandauer Volksblatt" has merely shown enough backbone to remain faithful to its founder's idea and will not have the paper party-bound.

Thus we have made a real contribution to the freedom of the Press. The freedom of the Press is endangered if a number of papers - tele-controlled by a central office - must submit to the will of individual directors. For us the ideal of Press freedom is much too high to be endangered by Press hunting obscurants. But nobody should speak about a jeopardy for the Press who himself is darkly aiming at grazing on other people's pasture-land. "Spandauer Volksblatt" ground-grazing is barred to obscurants of this type.

We consider it our task to inform our readers as factually as possible on all political, economic, and cultural events. Our commentator strives at discussing all current questions without viewing them through the glasses of a particular political party. It is not our task to present our readers with a cooked opinion pursuing a certain tendency. Just the same as we decline to humbug our readers about a black man by unfounded and irresponsible "Bormann tales" - as tried by a West Berlin paper closely connected with the SPD. Our work does not follow the saying: "And will you not be my brother, I shall break your head." but rather serves the task of being loyal towards the licensed political parties (also towards the SPD despite all accusations). To defend Party interests is a matter for the political parties; to have in mind the interests of all classes of the population and in particular of our close Spandau home bezirk is the aim pursued by the "Spandauer Volksblatt".



"Obscurants endanger the Freedom of the Press"

=====

A.-in. This caption we have had to borrow. The kind permission of the Berlin SPD weekly paper will be obtained afterwards. It will certainly grant us this somewhat arbitrary loan as we also have to say something to this chapter.

At the Dortmund SPD party rally Fritz H e i n e , the SPD Press chief, made a critical ride against the occupation powers at whom he pointed out with clouded forehead and raised forefinger darkly entwined hurdles apt not only to render the extravagant leaps of the party Press horse more difficult but even to jeopardise them. In this connection Heine thought it necessary among other things to raise reproaches against the occupation powers culminating in the following statement:

" . . . . . The Press policy of the occupation powers also backs the Federal Government. We (SPD) shall soon be able to see whether this pro-government attitude will also be maintained towards a Social Democratic government. To-day, we see that, with respect to the decision on the future of the zonal paper "Die Welt" just the same as with regard to the future of the "Spandauer Volksblatt", measures have been taken which we cannot but deeply regret from the point of view of a just solution.

"Should these two papers fall into social-reactionary anti-Socialist hands, as it seems likely, this will be the sole responsibility of the occupation power - we, the Germans, shall have to bear the consequences....."

So much of Heine's pathos. How he likes to get along with the occupation powers is of secondary importance for us. Interesting, however, is his "statement" that the occupation powers have, on a pro-government basis, played "Spandauer Volksblatt" into "social-reactionary and anti-socialist hands". How Heine will connect the issue of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" licence with the Federal Government, is a matter which at best shows the value of his polemics against the highest federal bodies. It is to be hoped that in general he has better arguments, as, otherwise, the SPD might soon become reputed for pure opportunism through a spokesman like Heine.

Very soon, however, illuminator Heine turned off the spotlight directed on the "obscurants" when he thought it necessary to say that "Spandauer Volksblatt" had fallen into "social-reactionary and anti-Socialist" hands - a disarmingly naive phrase, not even good enough for a joke. And he had had every reason on this occasion to switch on the full lights to place the real obscurants into glaring limelight, those who hide with an idealist's face in order to kill from the ambush the game which is to deliver the fat for the cheap soup of some interested people. If this Press Chief calls "Spandauer Volksblatt" social-reactionary and anti-democratic, we could not care less. All the more so as he cannot furnish proof of it. The only question we have is whom he wanted to impress by it. Our readers? The Berliners? Or, perhaps, an occupation power only?

/Still



CONFIDENTIAL

69

Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03  
Your Ref.:  
Telephone: 86 6737

INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2

6th October, 1952

IS.D. WAHN  
7 OCT 1952  
FILE 31/5/11

Dear Ted,

22-17 - 68?

Further to my letter of 3rd October.

In yesterday's issue the "Volksblatt" hit out at the SPD attitude towards the newspaper. I enclose a translation of the leading article and of some letters in the correspondence columns.

Your friendly advice would be welcomed on whether it would be wise to have a quiet talk with Frau Lezinsky and Schopflin and to suggest that however much they are incensed by SPD tactics open war is not advisable. I can see points for and against such a talk but, for once, cannot decide whether we should intervene in a friendly fashion.

What must be avoided is any increasing bitterness leading to a sharp clamping down on SPD news and views which would destroy the independent character of the newspaper. Provided that does not happen the newspaper has the right to hit back at those who attack it.

I have also been giving some thought to our conversations on the suggestion of a title change. If that is to be done the sooner the better in my opinion. The difficulty is to decide whether this is the right moment when there is this clash. It might intensify the situation. Could I also have your views on this.

Yours sincerely  
George Sumner

Col. I. C. Edwards OBE TD  
Deputy Chief  
Office of the Chief  
Information Services Division  
U.K. High Commission in Germany  
(22c) WÄNNERHEIDE  
Rheinland

10/10/52  
J. C. Edwards

I do not think that Frau L. is doing herself much good, that I imagine that it is the gentleman to whom the S.P.D. objected who is doing the writing. On the other hand, it does not appear that the S.P.D. are doing themselves much good either. I consider that T. would be wise not to interfere. But he should consult the Deputy. Mark 8/10



From: Col. I. C. Edwards, OBE, TD

70

Wahnerheide 197

ISD.31/5/11

CONFIDENTIAL

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX

(22c)

XXXXXXXX

Rheinland.

X.G.

9 October, 1952

69  
In reply to your letter ISBE/07/03, dated 6th October 1952, regarding the attack in the "Spendauer Volksblatt" against the SPD attitude towards that newspaper.

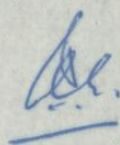
I have discussed your letter with Michael Robb and in our opinion neither Frau Lesinsky nor the SPD appear to be doing themselves much good. We think it would be wiser if you did not interfere at this juncture but it would definitely be advisable for you to consult the Deputy.

It is unfortunate that this matter is developing into open warfare but if the SPD is acting as the newspaper says it is, it is understandable that the paper is attempting to defend itself.

In your last paragraph you refer to the possible change of title. An early change would appear to be desirable, but whilst this public quarrel is taking place it is obviously an inopportune moment to effect such a change.

I am afraid my comments will not be awfully helpful but there are so many local factors which must be taken into consideration in a dispute of this sort that we feel it would be better for you to take the advice of the Deputy, because you and he are much nearer the scene of operations.

Yours sincerely,



George Turner Esq.,  
Information Services Branch,  
British Military Government,  
BERLIN, BAOR 2.

FILE



# MINUTE SHEET

Reference ISD.31/5/11.....

P.S. to H.E.

## "Spandauer Volksblatt"

Herr Arno Scholtz ("Telegraf", Berlin) may raise this subject this evening. It is a complicated wrangle and I hope it will not be raised. In case it is H.E. may wish to know the facts, which, omitting details, are as follows:-

- (a) A licence was granted on the 1st March, 1946 to Erich Lezinsky for the publication of a newspaper, the "Spandauer Volksblatt", in Berlin.
- (b) Lezinsky died on the 6th March this year.
- (c) The SPD claimed that the deceased Lezinsky had held the licence as Trustee for the SPD and they therefore claimed the right to nominate the new licensee.
- (d) The SPD have failed to produce any documentary evidence to support their claim.
- (e) The Lezinsky lawyer has proved that the deceased Lezinsky categorically rejected the SPD contention in a letter to the SPD in 1950.
- (f) After a careful investigation and an abortive effort to arrange a mutually acceptable compromise our people in Berlin have given the licence of this newspaper to Lezinsky's widow.
- (g) Scholtz (on behalf of the SPD) has appealed to Mr. John Hynd M.P. who has written to the Secretary of State.
- (h) We have provided the F.O. with data to enable them to reply to Mr. Hynd.
- (i) The matter is now on the F.O./John Hynd level.

*Herr Scholtz is of course influenced to some extent by considerations of commercial competition.*

*unaware*

9 October, 1952

*JK.*  
*9.10.*



As you know both of these papers are "Independent". Both licensees Sholtz and Lezinsky were members of the SPD. The 'Telegraf' has from its first issue nailed the SPD colours to its mast. The 'Spandauer Volksblatt' has consistently taken a sympathetic line in so far as the SPD is concerned but has equally definitely maintained its complete independence, and you have documentary proof of this.





WAHN S 13-400-16/10/52-TH: 1255

TELEPRINT

To: G.I.D. Foreign Office (for Moore)

From: L.S.D. Wahnerheide (EDWARDS)

For information SISO BERLIN

Ref: ISD. 31/4/11

16th October, 1952

Reference your telephonic request of this morning. The following extracts are taken from the leader published in the first issue of the "Telegraf" in Berlin.

"The Telegraf is a new paper but more than that it is a platform for all who wish to co-operate in the realisation of socialism." "They (the 'Telegraf' columns) will put the reader in a position to form his own opinion. Leading articles will provoke personal judgement so that by and by a deepened maturity in the political thinking of our nation shall be achieved."

"Those who conduct the 'Telegraf' have an aim ..... but they are bound by their conscience alone not by political parties, not even to socialist ones".

"The aims are ..... A socialist planned economy".

The following extract is taken from the leading article of the first issue of the 'Spandauer Volksblatt'.

"The 'Spandauer Volksblatt' will be published as the first newspaper of an unofficial and non political party character in the Berlin sector of the British Occupation Zone of Germany." In a front page feature congratulatory message in this same first issue Burgomeister Munch wrote "The 'Spandauer Volksblatt' will represent no pre-determined political line."

The following extract is a quotation from General Bishop's speech when the licence was handed to Erich Lezinsky. It appeared in this first issue under the crosshead 'Ueber parteiliche Stellung.' "All British Military Government recognised Parties are united in your staff so that one can designate it as a truly democratic newspaper."

FILE



File  
72  
32  
Munich  
1350  
1415 3D  
wahn - s13 - 400 - 15/10/52 th1 1255  
to: g.i.d. foreign office (for moore)

from: i.s.d. wahnheide (edwards)

for information siso-berlin - See Folio 72

ref: lsd.31/8/11

- 16th october, 1952 -

reference your telephonic request of this morning. the following extracts are taken from the Leader published in the first issue of the 'telegraf' in berlin.

"the telegraf is a new paper but more than that it is a platform for all who wish to co-operate in the realisation of socialism." "they (the 'telegraf' columns) will put the reader in a position to form his own opinion. Leading articles will provoke personal judgement so that by and by a deepened maturity in the political thinking of our nation shall be achieved."

"those who conduct the 'telegraf' have an aim ..... but they are bound by their conscience alone not by political parties, not even to socialist ones".

"the aims are ..... a socialist planned economy".  
the following extract is taken from the leading article of the first issue of the 'spandauer volksblatt'.

"the 'spandauer volksblatt' will be published as the first newspaper of an unofficial and non political party character in the berlin sector of the british occupation zone of germany." in a front page feature congratulatory message in this same first issue burgomeister munch wrote "the 'spandauer volksblatt' will represent no pre-determined political line."

the following extract is a quotation from general bishop's speech when the licence was handed to erich lezinsky. it appeared in this first issue under the crosshead 'ueber parteiliche stellung.' "all british military government recognised parties are united in your staff so that one can designate it as a truly democratic newspaper."

as you know both of these papers are "independent". both licensees sholtz and lezinsky were members of the s p d. the 'telegraf' has from its first issue nailed the s p d colours to its mast. the 'spandauer volksblatt' has consistently taken a sympathetic line in so far as the s p d is concerned but has equally definitely maintained its complete independence, and you have documentary proof of this.

ends +

sent wahnheide by hand 1310 pe +  
rd by confolk ...15/10/ sent +



U.S.A. PE  
File  
wahrheide v ber b 7 -10- 16/10 thi 1650/1652a  
from :- i s b berlin from turner  
to :- i s d wahrheide for ~~xxxx~~ edwards

U.S. C. KML  
isbe/07/03 (.)<sub>3</sub> / 42

your isd 31/4/11 received (.) it fits the bill admirably

e n d

sent ber by hand 1653a jd

rd by wahn b 7.....16/10/1653 pe+

17  
DISK  
43



38  
Ref.  
74  
31/5/11  
8n 1623

to: pope, 1sd, wannerheide  
from: moore, g.i.d.  
24.10.52.

reference ted edwards' letter to me 1sd 31/5/11 of 6th october.

1. the person who wrote to john hynd on 21st july said in his letter of that date that at the time when the newspaper in question was first licensed (i.e. in 1946) allied licensing regulations did not permit a licence to be issued either to a political party or to individuals authorised by a party.

2. when rolland was in berlin recently george turner told him that although newspapers were not at first directly licensed to parties some of them had obvious mandate or permission to support a particular party and act as its mouthpiece, which they did. but turner believes that direct licensing to parties was not possible until 1947.

3. it is important for us to know exact regulations on this point which were in force in 1946, as we want to tell john hynd (a) that his correspondent was wrong in his statement in para one above, and (b) that as proof of this his correspondent's own paper appeared at that time with the announcement that it was an spd paper (see ted's teleprint to me 1sd 31/4/11 of 16th october). we can say (b) but would we be correct in being so categorical about (a)?

4. i have asked george turner, who says hah he has no records of regulations on this matter.

end message sent 1442 sh+

RD 1442 B



74

31

Mr. Pope

ltn 1623

to: pope, isd, wannerheide  
from: moore, g.i.d.  
24.10.52.

67.

reference ted edwards' letter to me isd 31/5/11 of 6th october.

1. the person who wrote to john hynd on 21st july <sup>49A?</sup> said in his letter of that date that at the time when the newspaper in question was first licensed (i.e. in 1946) allied licensing regulations did not permit a licence to be issued either to a political party or to individuals authorised by a party.

2. when rolland was in berlin recently george turner told him that although newspapers were not at first directly licensed to parties some of them had obvious mandate or permission to support a particular party and act as its mouthpiece, which they did. but turner believes that direct licensing to parties was not possible until 1947.

3. it is important for us to know exact regulations on this point which were in force in 1946, as we want to tell john hynd (a) that his correspondent was wrong in his statement in para one above, and (b) that as proof of this his correspondent's own paper appeared at that time with the announcement that it was an spd paper (see ted's teleprint to me isd 31/4/11 of 16th october). we can say (b) but would we be correct in being so categorical about (a)? <sup>72?</sup>

4. i have asked george turner, who says ~~xxx~~ he has no records of regulations on this matter.

end message sent 1442 sh+

RD 1442 Rg



75  
44  
L. Pope

wahn - s22 - 250 - 24/10/52 th1 1710  
to : gid, london for moore  
from: 1sd, wahnheide from pope

74

your teleprint 1623 of october 24. i am afraid that i am not able to give you any categorical information on the exact licensing regulations in berlin during 1946, nor is there anybody here who is able to do so. as none of the files dealing with that time are in germany perhaps it might be possible for you to get hold of the relevant regulation in london, or failing that ask my predecessor nick huitsman.

2. one thing is certain smcln under the licensing regulations newspaper licences were not issued to a political party in the british zone of germany. however, the writer of the letter of july 21 is wrong in saying that licensing regulations did not permit a licence to be issued to individuals authorized by a party. in fact until the issue of licences to independent newspapers in 1947, licences were issued to persons acceptable to the political parties concerned. in 1947, as you know, licensing was handed over to land press committees and after that date two newspapers were

actually licensed direct, one to the s p d and one to the c d u. my difficulty is that i am not able to confirm definitely that the position in the british zone of germany was exactly the same as in berlin in 1946. i feel, however, pretty certain that this was the case.

3. it will be incorrect therefore to tell mr. hynd that his correspondent was wrong in stating that allied licensing regulations did not permit a licence to be issued to a political party. you can however with reasonable certainty state that he is wrong in alleging that licences could not be issued to individuals acceptable to the political parties concerned.

signed: pope ++

message ends

sent wahn by auto 1750 pa +  
rd by confolk.....24/10/



Wahne rheide v berlin b 7 400 28/10 th1 1150 a

322  
from : isb berlin from turner  
to : isd wahne rheide forwarded

Discussed on phone 76  
with J. Moore.  
This is in reply to my request  
to [unclear] [unclear]

isbe /07/03 (.) dates of dispatch from licensing board were span-  
daue r volksblatt 26 february 1946 (.) telegraf 8 march 1946 (.)  
mittags echo 13 december 1947 (.) tag 19 march 1948 (.)  
sozialdemokrat 30 july 1948 (.)

2(.) publication of first issue normally followed within two or  
three weeks (.) your attention drawn to exception in case of  
sozialdemokrat (.) our records show it began publication on  
3 june 1946 under a temporary permission (.) serial number  
suggests licence was granted sometime in 1947 but we have no  
record of date on which authority made its decision (.)

reason for delay in waiting until 30 july 1948 to hand over not  
known (.) we have letter heading of august 1947 which describes  
it as organ of spd published by spd verlag but gives no indi-  
cation that it was licensed on that date (.) general position  
may fit in with contention that actual licensing to parties not  
permitted until 1947 (.)

3 (.) although newspapers at first do not appear to have been  
directly licensed to parties close affiliations were recognised  
and some newspapers had obvious mandate or permission to support  
a party and act as its mouthpiece (.) which they did (.)

4(.) of first three newspapers published in our sector two  
adopted definite party line from birth (.) other proclaimed inde-  
pendence from first issue (.) the two subsequent newspapers  
although not licensed directly to a party have continuously given  
open support to fdp and cdu respectively (.) their licensing  
undoubtedly conditioned by wish to give parties a mouthpiece in  
west berlin (.) you will recall kaiser leaving neue zeit and  
crossing here (.)

5(.) interesting reflection that if argument advanced elsewhere  
correct we authorised newspapers of only one party until  
december 1947 (.)

6 (.) on other reckoning if all had survived the present line up  
would be spd 2, cdu 1, fdp 1 and independent 1 (.)

ends

bln sent by hand ...28/10/ 1200 a ml

rd by wahne rheide b 7 ....28/10/ rd by berlin 1200 a hj

kkkkk

1200 500



with their financial help, has now passed out of their immediate control. I do not think that Military Government in Berlin could have acted any differently in the circumstances. The S.P.D. in Berlin should have taken greater precautions to ensure that they retained some influence, if not control, over the paper in the event of Lezinsky's death, particularly as it was clear that Lezinsky was maintaining that his paper was independent and was building up an independent financial position. I would suggest that if the S.P.D. do not wish to wait until the end of licensing to bring an action against Frau Lezinsky, they should find some means of coming to agreement with her. Information Services Branch of Military Government will be only too ready to give such help as they properly can in this matter.

I return herewith Arno Scholz's letter.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)



The British Commandant in Berlin considered that Frau Lezinsky was in possession of the printing equipment and of a considerable stock of newsprint and was in control of the editorial and distributing machinery of the "Spandauer Volksblatt", a paper which was playing a useful role in the life of Berlin, and which it was to the public interest to continue. It would have been almost impossible to grant a licence to anyone with whom Frau Lezinsky would not co-operate, because the new licensee would then have had a licence to run a paper but no facilities therefor. It was for that reason that, after attempts to find an editorial board which would satisfy both sides, it was finally decided to grant the licence to Frau Lezinsky alone, particularly as Frau Lezinsky gave a written undertaking that she would continue to run the paper on the same lines as her late husband.

In this connexion, you ask why we have broken our rigid rule that licences can only be issued to experienced, responsible journalists. In fact such a rule, although no doubt desirable in theory, does not exist. A number of non-journalist licence-holders were originally appointed by us in Western Germany. An example is Herr Fritz Heine, who was given a licence for the "Hannoversche Presse". Many other similar instances could be quoted of S.P.D. and other political party nominees.

While I recognise that the S.P.D. in Berlin may feel aggrieved that the paper, which was built up on the basis of the goodwill of their former paper and

with/



"a platform for all who wished to co-operate in the realisation of Socialism." In contrast, Erich Lezinsky declared openly from the very first issue of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" until his death that his paper had no commitments to any political party. Furthermore, even as recently as 1950, when it was suggested that he should appear on the register of Social Democratic publishing firms, he replied in writing that he could not accept as his paper should be considered as non-political.

Under these conditions it was of course incumbent upon the Information Services Branch of Military Government in Berlin to consider the question of continuing the licence of the "Spandauer Volksblatt" after the death of Erich Lezinsky most carefully, taking into account all the interests at stake, including the S.P.D. claim to the title. There could be no question of any of the parties having any rights vis-à-vis Military Government and consultation of the parties interested did not create any such rights. The decision to issue or not to issue a licence was taken by the British Commandant on his own authority after hearing all the arguments. This was done and Scholz is wrong when he states that Information Services Branch in Berlin did not reply to the S.P.D. suggestion that Herr Schilling should be one of the licensees. This proposal was formally acknowledged and the British Authorities subsequently arranged and attended an interview with Herr Mattick to hear the S.P.D. arguments. Herr Mattick was also formally notified of the final decision to appoint Frau Lezinsky as sole licensee.

The/



of this licence, because the new paper was bound to draw advantage from the goodwill of the former "Volksblatt", especially as Erich Lazinsky had himself been the editor up to 1933. In the event the S.P.D. did not object to the use of the title. There is also no doubt that during the succeeding years Lazinsky received considerable financial help from the S.P.D. and from the "Telegraf" and this help enabled him to purchase his plant and establish the paper. The loans were repaid however and on the 30th April 1951 Scholz, who had acquired all S.P.D. claims against Lazinsky, made a declaration before a notary to the effect that he relinquished all financial claims against the firm of Erich Lazinsky. These financial transactions, as well as the tacit agreement by the S.P.D. to the use of the title certainly give the S.P.D. some ground for claiming that the "Spandauer Volksblatt" should be considered a socialist paper and Erich Lazinsky their nominee.

On the other hand we have been able to discover no evidence to show that Erich Lazinsky considered himself to be the trustee of the S.P.D., that he was granted a licence in the first place because of S.P.D. support, or that the paper "was conducted on behalf of the S.P.D." While licences were at that time issued only to individuals acceptable to a political party, and not to their representatives, there was no regulation to prevent the licensee from advocating publicly the particular politics of his party. In fact, some three weeks after the appearance of the first number of the new "Spandauer Volksblatt" in 1946, Herr Scholz's own paper, the "Telegraf", was published carrying the announcement that it was



(PC 10214/39)

4th November, 1952

49A.

As Selwyn Lloyd is in New York, I am replying to your letter of the 6th August about the "Spandauer Volksblatt".

I am sorry that we have been so long in replying to your letter. The events to which you and Arno Scholz refer took place a long time ago. All the early records of Military Government in Berlin were flown out at the time of the blockade and are no longer easily accessible. Officers concerned have drawn from their own personal recollections for the explanations we asked. We have not unfortunately been able yet to check these personal recollections against the records, but it may be that the reply which I can now give you on the basis of our immediately available information will suffice.

No one disputes the fact that "Volksblatt" was an S.P.D. paper before 1933, and that at the end of the war S.P.D. were entitled to the restitution of the paper, namely the use of the title. When in 1946 Leziasky was granted a licence by British Military Government to publish a paper to be known as "Spandauer Volksblatt", it was therefore recognised that the S.P.D. had the right to object to the issue

John B. Hynd, Esq., M.P.

o2/

Copy sent by C.I.D. to  
 Gen. Twinn. Await further news from  
 F.O.  
 tel.  
 10.11.52.



11  
WITH THE COMPLIMENTS  
OF THE  
UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*German Information Dept.*

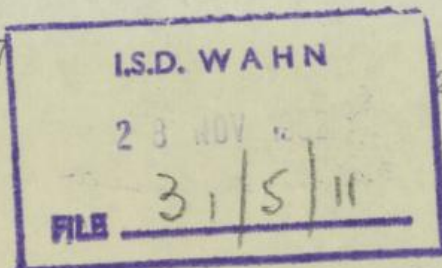
*Foreign Office,*

*8. 11. , 1952.*



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03  
Your R  
Telephone: 86 6737

48  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2



Dear Ted

[? following]  
I think the attached quotation from the Soviet licensed "Neues Deutschland" may interest you or at least make you smile: "The Spandauer Volksblatt in which the SPD official Schopflin has considerable influence".

Yours

amercy  
George Turner

Colonel I.C. Edwards OBE, TD  
Deputy Chief  
Office of the Chief  
Information Services Division  
U.K. High Commission in Germany  
(22c) WAHNERHEIDE  
Rheinland

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	x	1.11.
D/P & P		
PUBLICATIONS		
PR		
NEWSPAPERS		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE		
COMMUNICATIONS		



151/31/5/11

Enter

1/1/11

79

wahn v. berlin b 6 5/12 thl 1715 a

from : also berlin

to : isd wahn for edwards

isbe /07/03 emil schroeder has asked me to- day if i will write  
short congratulation message for volksblatt on occasion of  
publication of its forthcoming 2000th number. have you any  
objection. tumer.

ends

et ml

re by wahn b 6 .....5/12/



isd/31/5/11.

*Enter*

59  
Kling

79

wahn v berlin b 6 30 5/12 th1 1715 a

from : siso berlin

to : isd wahn for edwards

IS.D. WAHN

FILE

31/5/11

isbe /07/03 emil schroeder has asked me to- day if i will write short congratulation message for volksblatt on occasion of publication of its forthcoming 2000th number . have you any objection . tumer .

ends

bt ml

rd by wahn b 6 .....5/12/

*Lotus 81 ref. 1.*

17.16

Qs.



1 - 85 - 30 - 6/12/32 th1 1000  
to : S.I.S.O., Berlin  
from: I.S.O. wahn from edwards

*Earl*

31/5/11

80

1st 31/5/11

- 6th december, 1932 .

your 1st/07/03 yesterday's date regarding message for  
vehoblett. no objection here assume you will clear with rose or  
purphrey.

ends +

sent wahn 1012 po +

rd by Berlin ..6/12/1015 ca +

82



Wahn - s5 - 30 - 6/12/52 thi 1000  
to : s.i.s.o., berlin  
from: i.s.d. wahn from edwards

*Earl*

31/5/11

80<sup>4</sup>  
10  
NICKIEF-

isd 31/5/11

- 6th december, 1952 .

your isbe/07/03 yesterday's date regarding message for  
volksblatt. no objection here assume you will clear with rose or  
pumphrey.

ends +

sent wahn 1012 pe +

rd by berlin ..6/12/1014 ew +



40

TELEPRINT

TO: S.I.S.O., Berlin

FROM: I.S.D. Wahn from EDWARDS

ISD 31/5/11

6th December, 1952.

79.

Your ISBE/07/03 yesterday's date regarding message  
for VOLKSBLATT. No objection here assume you will clear with  
ROSE or PUMPHREY.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Info 81 ref'd*

FILE



Als wesentlicher und Vertrauen genießender Bestandteil des Lebens der Gemeinde, der es dient, erfüllt das "Spandauer Volksblatt" die Tradition und Aufgabe einer guten Lokalzeitung. Unter kundiger redaktioneller Leitung ist es zu einem lebendigen demokratischen Forum geworden. Es unterstützt treu die Dinge, die es im öffentlichen Interesse liegend erachtet. Ferner hat es das Fortbestehen des Spandauer Bürgerstolzes gefördert.

Diese vortrefflichen Eigenschaften waren jedoch nicht mit engstirnigen Anschauungen verknüpft. Ihre Zeitung verdient Lob für die gleichzeitige Erfüllung ihrer lokalen Verpflichtungen wie auch für die zuverlässige Information ihrer Leser über in- und ausländische Ereignisse und ihre Bedeutung.



Our Ref.: ISBE/07/03  
Your Ref.:  
Telephone: 86 6737

81  
INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCH  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BERLIN, BAOR 2

29th December, 1952

To: Office of the Chief  
Information Services Division  
U.K. High Commission in Germany  
(22c) WAHNERHEIDE  
Rheinland

I.S.D. WAHN	
31 DEC 1952	
FILE	31/5/11

Subject: "Spandauer Volksblatt" 49-80

1. You will recall the request for your views on my providing a message for the 2000th issue of "Spandauer Volksblatt" and your assent provided the Political Adviser also agreed. As Laurie Pumphrey raised no objection I wrote a short message (copy attached). It was decided, in view of the Volksblatt-SPD controversy, that the GOC would not comply with a similar request for a message,
2. The 2000th number coincided with the Christmas Day issue. A special supplement was published which bristled with congratulatory messages from Berlin personalities from all spheres and political parties. These were headed by the SPD leaders, Regierender Bürgermeister Ernst Reuter and President of the City Assembly Otto Suhr, the CDU Bürgermeister Walther Schreiber and the FDP leader Carl Hubert Schwennicke. Police President Dr. Stumm and Senate Press Chief Hans Hirschfeld, both of the SPD, also contributed. Other politicians were Karl Schilling, the SPD Bürgermeister of Spandau, and the SPD, CDU and FDP fractions of the Spandau Bezirk Assembly.
3. In addition there were congratulations and good wishes from many prominent personalities outside party politics. These ranged from Ernst Scharnowski, Chairman of the Berlin DGB, to stage stars Viktor de Kova and Kathe Haack, Olympic athlete Gunther Dohrow, industrialists and the leaders of the churches in Spandau.
4. Sharing the respective top corners of a page were pictures of and articles by Alfons Schopflin and W. Emil Schroder.
5. I hope that this public recognition of the impartial nature of the newspaper may assist in bringing the SPD backroom boys towards acceptance of that fact and bring about peace in Spandau.
6. An extra copy of this letter is attached in case you should consider it of interest to G.I.D.

see folio 82

*G. Turner*

(G. TURNER)  
SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Copy to: Political Adviser

I. S. D.	INIT.	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF	X	31.12.52
D/P & P		
PUBLICATION		
PRESS		
NEWS ROOM		
D/PUBLICATIONS		
GENERAL OFFICE	X	31.12.52
COMMUNICATIONS		



From Col. I. C. Edwards, OBE, TD.

82

Wahnerheide 197

31 December, 1952.

ISD 31/5/11

*m. d. f.*

"Spandauer Volksblatt"

Herewith a little piece of news about the "Spandauer Volksblatt" which, I am happy to say, is not concerned with the rather involved and unpleasant arguments which have surrounded this paper during past months.

Earlier this month George Turner had asked if it would be in order for him to give a congratulatory message to the "Volksblatt" on the occasion of its 2,000th issue and I told him that, providing Rose and Pumphrey had no objection, we thought it was a good idea.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter we have today received from George Turner in this connection and which I think ~~would~~ be of interest to you.

John Moore, Esq.,  
German Information Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Copy to: Senior Information Services Officer,  
(1) Berlin.

81  
G.E.  
J.  
FILE