

**Kasper Braskén**

## **Die "Ulbricht-Verschwörung" gegen Münzenberg (1936-1938) / The "Ulbricht conspiracy" against Münzenberg (1936–1938)**

Abstract:

The aim of the paper is to investigate the break between Münzenberg and the communist movement on the basis of new archive material collected from the Comintern archive and the top secret personal file on Münzenberg. The paper forms an exposé of a forthcoming publication by Kasper Braskén and Bernhard Bayerlein on the so called "Ulbricht Conspiracy." The paper suggests that one of the principal reasons for Münzenberg's break with the KPD and the Comintern was due to a personal and political vendetta headed by Walter Ulbricht against Münzenberg. It led further to the complete suppression of Münzenberg as a non-person in Ulbricht's GDR. The conflict between the two adversaries had begun already during the late 1920s, but reached completely new levels in Paris in 1936 as Ulbricht and Münzenberg fought over the direction and leadership of the German Volksfront. Evidence shows that Ulbricht had the highest authorities in Moscow behind his back and that it was Ulbricht who throughout the period was on a personal mission to discredit and ruin the political career of Münzenberg. Münzenberg's break with the KPD and the Comintern became a very extended and heated process, lasting from 1936 to 1939. He was finally ousted from the KPD due to his alleged intentions to sabotage the united front and the people's front and he was publicly deemed as an enemy and traitor in the communist press.