

SECRET

Chief of Station, Vienna
Chief of Base, Frankfurt
Chief of Station, Germany

Chief, CR
BRUNO ARMBRANDT ICHENOW
Deputy Chief of Base, Germany, Communist Party

Reply to Headquarters' Suggestion

WVA-0700, 21 May 1961

1. For the same reasons which led the Vienna Station to conclude that Subject was in all probability an KGB plant, we have come to that conclusion also. ARMBRANDT/2 and 13, who have closely examined ARMBRANDT/2's debriefing report, are in agreement. ARMBRANDT/2 presented some theories which you might like to consider. He believes that the KGB is using Subject to probe not only in the direction of ARMBRANDT/1 but also the AIG. He reasons that the KGB believes that ARMBRANDT/1 and the AIG are jointly running operations into the USSR (as talked to you) and probably also assumes that legal operations are being used. Having been unable to get the finger on any of these operations thus far, the KGB is trying to provide an alternative route around and around by offering us a ready-made informant net. The attempt is stupid, but quite likely, we believe. ARMBRANDT/2 also believes that Subject has some kind of designs on Robert BERENSON.

2. ARMBRANDT/2 is of the opinion that if Subject was contacted by the AIG in a positive way, he would spill out his story and accept a proposition of collaboration with alacrity. It would be interesting to see how much of that he would tell the AIG would which what he told ARMBRANDT/2. ARMBRANDT/2 further suggests, and we agree, that if Subject was then subjected to a high-pressure interrogation and perhaps REINTERVIEW, he might well crack. Needless to say, the AIG approach should be entirely apart from ARMBRANDT/2 and apparently without knowledge of the ARMBRANDT/2-Subject relationship.

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2. This information is being furnished to you for your information and use in connection with the activities of the Department of Defense.

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