

VIA _____
(Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. EAVA-12375

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CLASSIFICATION

87 5661 AON *28 Nov 1955*

TO Chief, EE DATE _____
Attn: *1*

FROM Chief of Station, Vienna *OB*

SUBJECT { GENERAL Operational/CROOVY
SPECIFIC Progress Report for August, September,
and October 1955

Headquarters Action Required:

1. Request Headquarters traces on the following personalities:
 - a. *(Dr.)* Elfriede ROESSLER: born circa 1925 in Vienna; Austrian citizen; resides Vienna; holds PhD in world trade; employed by a local travel agency; ardent KPOe member and probable RIS contact; no VOB traces.

** Communism Austria structure Nat'l*

(For pertinent reference, see paragraph 4 of attached VIM/15290.)

- b. Richard SCHUELLER: editor-in-chief of KPOe newspaper published in Linz; member of Central Committee of Austrian Communist Party; reported to be KPOe liaison officer to West German Communist Party; was one of two Austrian delegates to the 6th annual meeting of the "Partei der Arbeit" (Swiss Communist) held in Geneva during Whitsuntide 1955; allegedly used this trip as cover for intensive conferences with military experts in the Swiss Communist Party and was appointed KPOe Central Committee military referent shortly after his return to Austria; reportedly is directly responsible to Central Committee Member Friedl FUERNBERG in all matters pertaining to the newly-organized Austrian army. Following VOB CPF trace: born circa 1901; resides Urfahr and Vienna II; long-time KPOe member; arrived Austria from Moscow December 1945.

(For pertinent reference, see paragraph 5 of attached VIM/15290.)

** Communism Austria Trad-USSR*

- c. Wilhelm BRANDECKER: *DOB 12 May 1912 POB - Bischofshofen, Germany* Austrian citizen; resides Salzburg, Lagerhausstrasse 18; recently returned to Austria from lengthy stay in Soviet Union; reported to have fought in Spanish Civil War; subsequently completed officers' candidate school in Soviet Union; returned to Austria some time after 1945; during recent trip allegedly wore Soviet officer's uniform

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while in transit to and from the Soviet Union. Following VOB trace: DOB
11 May 1912; POB Bischofshofen; editor of Salzburger Tagblatt. ^{no. Austria}

(For pertinent reference, see paragraph 4-c of attached VIM/15606.)

Developments:

2. [] Transfer to Vienna: Subject's long expected transfer to the Austrian MIS failed to materialize during the reporting period. He managed to swing a number of interviews with [] (even after the latter took seriously ill) and each time was assured that it was merely a matter of time until he could permanently leave the Salzburg police. On the surface, Subject appears to have all of the necessary backing to assure his transfer; such prominent figures as [] and (General) LIEBITZKY are said to be personally pushing his papers; the Socialist Party seems anxious to have him occupy one of the slots assigned it under the all-prevailing "Proporzsystem"; and [] himself assures him that his services are wanted and needed. Even should the latter's current illness be so serious as to force him into an early retirement, there is little reason at the moment to assume that agent's transfer will not—sooner or later—come through. In the meantime, we are unfortunately in the awkward position of having to meet (and pay) an operative who, through no fault of his own, is not now in a position to furnish significant intelligence. This unprofitable interim period will almost certainly justify itself if, a few weeks or months hence, Subject can report to us his commission and assignment to the Dominikanerbastei installation. Any deviation from this course of development will almost certainly force us into considering his early termination.

(For pertinent references, see paragraphs 7 and 8 of attached VIM/
15290 and paragraphs 11 and 12 of attached VIM/15606.)

Production:

3. [] gives every indication of being willing to share with us whatever information he happens to have access to. Unfortunately this access is, at the moment, of highly questionable value. His current production stems entirely from two sources: (1) (Krim. Ray. Insp.) Johann ANGERER of the Salzburg Stapo, a source of dubious reliability who has plagued U.S. intelligence organizations since 1945; and (2) [], (Frau) Johanna BARTSCH, and other members of the Embryo MIS staff, none of whom know very much and all of whom are naturally hesitant to share information with a man who, until his transfer is approved, must remain a suspected outsider. It is almost entirely meaningless, therefore, to record the fact that during the two meetings held since 1 August we procured from [] 116 raw reports. It is much more realistic to state that until such time as Subject becomes an accepted member of the new Austrian Military Intelligence Service, his production will continue to be marked by much bulk and little quality.

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VIM/15290

COPS

17 August 1955

Operational

Meetings of 1 and 2 August 1955

Contact Report No. 5-10

Meeting Arrangements:

1. informed by letter that he would be available for an operational meeting at 1800 hours, 1 August 1955. He was met accordingly at the Westbahnhof Espresso and was taken to a small Gasthaus some four blocks removed from the station. Three brief meetings were held on the following day - all in the general vicinity of the Westbahnhof. No security incidents to report.

Production:

2. At the first meeting Subject gave forty raw reports given him by Krim. Bay. Insp. Johann ANGERER for hand-carrying to office. All of these reports were returned to early the following morning. Since WOB photographic facilities were not available at this time, carefully read all of the information furnished and decided the following:

a. Thirty-seven of the reports were of little or no intelligence interest. Reports in this category were vague and fragmentary and dealt almost exclusively with low-level KPO matters in the Salzburg area. was not told that these reports had not been photographed.

b. One report contained information on the so-called KPO Wehrkommission; pertinent data was extracted and forwarded to RO in VIM/15,195, dated 2 August.

c. Two of the reports contained operational data which is summarized below.

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3. During the third meeting on the afternoon of 2 August, Subject passed thirty-three reports handled as follows:

a. Two reports on recent developments in the Salzburg area: Forwarded to SOB under cover of VOB/5379, 4 August 1955.

b. Handwritten reports on his meeting with Summarized below.

c. Allegation of IS activity by two Austrian nationals: Summarized below.

d. reports on OeSOW and World Peace Council: Forwarded to RO.

e. Remaining 26 reports returned to

Operational Matters:

4. Dr. Alfriede ROSSLER: One of the above-mentioned Krim. Ray. Insp. ANGEHR reports contained the following allegation: Dr. Alfriede ROSSLER; born circa 1925 in Vienna; Austrian citizen; residing in Vienna; Handelswissenschaftlerin employed by an unnamed Vienna travel agency; ardent Communist and probable RES contact. No VOB CPF, city or telephone directory traces. Name checks requested in VIM45372, dated 2 August 1955.

5. Richard SCHUELLER: A second ANGERER report contains the following allegation: Richard SCHUELLER; editor-in-chief of KPOe newspaper published in Linz; current member of the Central Committee of the Austrian Communist Party; reported to be KPOe liaison officer to the West German Communist Party. SCHUELLER was one of two Austrian delegates to the 6th annual meeting of the "Partei der Arbeit" (Swiss Communist) held in Geneva during Whitsuntide 1955. SCHUELLER allegedly used this trip as cover for intensive conferences with military experts in the Swiss Communist Party and was appointed KPOe Central Committee military referent shortly after his return to Austria. He is reported to be directly responsible to Central Committee Member Friedl FUSIBERG in all matters pertaining to the newly organized Austrian Army.

(Case Officer Comment: Following VOB CPF trace: Richard SCHUELLER; born circa 1901; residences Urfahr and Vienna II; long-time KPOe member; arrived Austria from Moscow December 1945.)

6. (Dr.) Hugo KITTEL: In recent weeks has received a number of telephone calls from KITTEL, with repeated invitations for a social get-together. Subject refers to KITTEL as a "well-known intelligence operator," claims that the latter was committed by the Nazis to a concentration camp as an incurable homosexual and has heard that KITTEL (working closely with (Ing.) Richard KAUBER) uses appropriate detective agency and the travel bureau

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