

6 May 1959

Kurt and Artur AXMANN

1. This organization has an operational interest in the firm Kurt AXMANN. This interest dates back to 1955, and we were at one time in contact with Artur AXMANN. This paper summarizes such information as we hold concerning the two men and the firm run by Kurt AXMANN.

2. Kurt Alois AXMANN (born 27 June 1907 in Berlin) is the elder brother, and despite the fact that his younger brother outranked him during his NSDAP career, he is definitely the leader of the current business - Artur AXMANN can make no expenditures without Kurt's permission. Kurt was an H.J. Oberbannfuhrer in Land Brandenburg, and was interned in England until 1947. He was then in business in Luebeck until 1951, and was thereafter in Berlin. In 1952 he started a business which at first dealt in tinned fish products, but which now deals in all types of machinery. From at least 1954 until the present Kurt AXMANN has made numerous trips to Warsaw and Prague.

3. Artur AXMANN (born 18 February 1913 in Hagen), has had a much more active political career than his brother, and is still more active politically, judging from the numerous contacts he had and has with right-wing figures. Before 1945 he rose to Reichsjugendfuhrer, and he also saw active service on both Eastern and Western fronts. He was interned until 1949, and subsequently lived in Luebeck and Neustadt/Holstein. We are not entirely certain of his movements and activities between 1949 and the time he joined his brother's firm in Berlin in 1956. In 1951, however, he was reported as attending meetings concerning coordination of right-wing political groups held by Gert SPINDLER (born 9 May 1914), formerly publisher of "Der Fortschritt," and in March 1952 he attended meetings in Hannover led by Herr NAUMANN, formerly Staatssekretar in the Propaganda Ministerium. Some time prior to 1953, while still living in Neustadt/Holstein, he was in touch with one Wolf SCHENKE (born 6 April 1914 in Arnstadt), Gottfried GRIEBSMEIER, and Col-Gen a.d. STOMPF, formerly of the Luftwaffe. These contacts concerned an organization referred to as "Der Bund," but their exact nature is unknown to us.

4. Since at least 1956, Artur AXMANN has been very active in attempts to further trade relations with Red China. He has been a leading figure in the Deutsche-Chinesische Gesellschaft (DCG), and in May 1958 met and accompanied the Red Chinese Trade delegation to the Hannover Fair. Other contacts of his in the DCG have included Eduard J. SOLICH, Albrecht FOCKE, Claude RICHMERS, Joschis G.A. HERTSLET, and Erwin van HAZEBROCK. In the early part of 1958 Artur made a six week trip to Red China, accompanied by SCHEMKE. Although the trip was primarily a business survey, we assume that semi-political discussions were held.

5. In this connection, it is interesting to note that Kurt AXMANN, who has also acted for the DCG, has recently established the firm China-Kontor Handels-Gesellschaft mbH in Berlin, to conduct business with Red China. In addition to the AXMANN brothers, a Fritz Heinrich HANDEG of Hamburg is associated with the enterprise. We understand that a firm HAWKINS and a firm COMRAD, previously AXMANN employees, are employed by this new firm, and that Artur AXMANN is planning a new trip to Red China during the course of this year.

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6. Kurt AXMANN does business with the DDM, with Poland, with Czechoslovakia, and with the USSR. The business does not appear to be of a regular nature, but concerns a series of individual deals of opportunity involving various types of heavy machinery. AXMANN's Polish business has been falling off lately, and we understand he has expressed a desire to increase his trade with the USSR.

7. The AXMANN representative for Poland is Gert REINERT (born 4 December 1917 in Hamburg). REINERT has made a number of trips to Warsaw for AXMANN, and has many good connections there, including personnel in Elektrin, Polimex, Motor-Import, Centralny Urzad Naftowy, and Transactor. REINERT is at the moment on a trip to Sofia for the AXMANNs, but is expected to travel to Warsaw again. In Berlin in 1956 Kurt AXMANN was in regular touch with Jan CYGAN and Heinrich LOREK (aka LOKOWSKI) of the Visa Section of the Polish Military Mission.

8. We are attaching a photostat of a newspaper interview with Kurt AXMANN printed 6 June 1956 in the (East) Berliner Zeitung, which effectively summarizes his attitude towards East-West trade.

9. We would like to receive any information you may hold concerning the AXMANNs. We shall of course keep you informed of any developments we in turn uncover which might affect the security of the Federal Republic.

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