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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Office of the Chief of Staff, GENERAL USE REPORT, SECURITY AGENCY 10-28-45

From Confidential (Agency or Officer) (Status) Date 2-3
Source COLOMBIA (Name) (Eyes) Heinrich Gestapo (Teacher)
Area Reported On NOT Subject 64-9-23-18
Reference (Directive, correspondence, previous report, etc., if applicable) 64-9-23-18

SUMMARY: Enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated. Answer questions where, when, what, how, how many, and give date of event. In a final one sentence paragraph give significance. Begin text on page 2.
It is reported that Heinrich Gestapo (Teacher), a former employee of the Gestapo, is now an informant for a contact of the Soviet Legation in Bogota, Colombia.

COMMENT: The subject admitted in a letter, published in "El Tiempo" of Bogota, that he was a former member of the German Secret Police and that he had traveled in various European countries as a representative of the Nazi Government, that he worked for several months with Scotland Yard, and has done special missions for the Director of the Colombian National Police. He has been denounced by the Jewish Colony of Bogota as a representative of the Gestapo. His name was approved by the Department of Justice for deportation to the United States. He has been without employment for some time in Colombia and may be receiving financial assistance from the Soviet for intelligence information.

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Major, AUS
Asst. Military Attaché

Approved and Forwarded: *Legal Attache (FBI)*

JOHN A. RICKS
Colonel, USG
Military Attache

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SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001

COORDINATION WITH FBI

A fairly reliable source who met Heinz Bartenstein Fischer on the streets of Bogota, Colombia, about ten days ago stated that Bartenstein was spreading Communist propaganda and that he had been informed that Bartenstein, alias, Stern, Hensler, Schaefer, Madelmann, etc., is now an informant for a contact of the Soviet Legation in Bogota, Colombia. The source, a former resident of Berlin, asserted that Heinz Bartenstein was a professional informant and a former employee of the Gestapo at Berlin. He described him as being an unscrupulous person without principle or character. He said that Bartenstein volunteered at an early age for service with the German military forces along the Polish border and was used against the Poles as an informant. He also served in the German Military Police and later became connected with the Gestapo in the anti-Jewish section at Berlin where he was responsible for sending numerous Jews to the Concentration camps. During the height of the anti-Jewish campaign in 1937, the Gestapo wished to drop him on account of his Jewish ancestry. He was accused of living with a gentile and imprisoned, but later exciled by the Gestapo. The source believed that the Gestapo may have made deal with Heinz Bartenstein whereby he might leave the country if he worked for a German Party organization abroad.

The source stated that he once acted as referee to settle a dispute between Heinz Bartenstein and a fellow German concerning their respective characters and that Bartenstein made many statements during the argument which he, who had also served in the German Military Police, knew to be false.

In reply to an attack against his character by the local Jewish Colony, Heinz Bartenstein wrote a long letter in January 1943 to the Bogota newspaper "El Tiempo". He admitted in the article that he was of part Jewish descent but of the Christian religion, stating that he entered the uniformed police of Berlin, holding the rank of lieutenant, later promoted to Captain and finally, in 1929, became a Commissary and Advisor to the Detective force of the German Capital and that as Commissary of Police he frequently traveled for the Reich Government in England, Poland, Switzerland, etc. in pursuit of falsifiers of Party documents or passports. He said that he worked with Inspector Jamson of Scotland Yards for several months, that in Colombia he had attended the Universidad Javeriana, practiced law, worked in 1939 for the Bogota Municipality upon recommendation of President Santos, and that he has done special missions for the Director of the Colombian National Police.

Following the appearance of the article in the local press, the German Minister to Colombia advised the Colombian National Police that Heinz Bartenstein had never held the rank of an officer in the German police service, but that he had been used by the secret section to cover certain groups for which he proved inadequate.

Heinz Bartenstein Fischer visited the Republic of Panama some time after his arrival in Colombia in 1937, but has apparently been inactive since the beginning of the war. He has married a Colombian citizen and is reported to be in poor financial circumstances. It is possible that he may receive financial remuneration from a Communist source.

Heinz Bartenstein Fischer was approved by recommendation of the Department of Justice for deportation to the United States and his name was submitted to the Colombian authorities as a person considered to be a dangerous enemy alien, but deportation proceedings were never effected by the Colombian Government.

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DETAILS:

AT MERRILLIN, COLOMBIA

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Informant MD-21 provided the following information regarding HRINZ BARTENSTEIN FISCHER which he received from his co-worker in Barranquilla, Colombia. This information is being set out in exactly the form in which Informant MD-21 received it:

"BARTENSTEIN was born in Breslau, Germany of an Aryan father and a Jewish mother; he probably uses his mother's name (Tischer) to indicate his Jewish descent for the sake of convenience today.

"In his statement to the press BARTENSTEIN admitted that he worked in the service of the German Police up to the year 1935 but he omitted to place on record that from 1935 to 1937 he was in the employ of the Gestapo. On March 3rd, 1937 he arrived at the Concentration Camp in Dachau and it was obvious that he had been entrusted by the Gestapo with the special task of supervision of individuals of Jewish descent at this camp who had been brought from France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. Several people were brought back to Germany through his intervention and interned in the same camp, and it was these people who subsequently became aware that BARTENSTEIN was the party responsible for their presence there.

"During our confinement a Nazi Chief visited the camp and was heard to inform BARTENSTEIN that if he had been more careful during his last visit to Belgium he would have been of more use to them in the Nazi service there. At this time BARTENSTEIN himself admitted to have made so much money out of the Gestapo that he had been able to acquire property in Berlin. No one in the concentration camp trusted BARTENSTEIN as it was obvious that he was called from time to time for conferences to pass on information regarding his 'fellow' internees."

According to Informant MD-21, the above information was furnished to his co-worker in Barranquilla by two informants who were interned in the German concentration camp in Dachau at the same time as Subject.

Informant MD-21 also provided this office with a copy of a communication directed to his co-worker in Barranquilla from British Intelligence Headquarters in New York, dated February 24, 1945. The contents of this communication is herein set out in its entirety:

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"First, BARTYNSSTEIN is just an alias, as his real name is Dr. HARRY CHALM BENEWER, he also uses the names of SCHWARTZBER and STERN."

"It appears that BARTYNSSTEIN first came to the notice of this department in 1935. He is a self-admitted Gestapo agent and works in Jewish circles, and his career and activities are very well summarized in a special Branch Report dated 1st November, 1935, which runs as follows:-

"The PARISER TAGEBLATT of 1.11.35 (a newspaper printed in German with a large circulation amongst German refugees all over Europe) published a long article on Dr. HARRY BENEWER'S career and activities, together with a reproduction of one page of his passport bearing his photograph and signature. It begins by saying that the London Jewish Chronicle gave certain details in its last number concerning this man.

"It will be remembered that BENEWER was an inspector in the Berlin political police from 1925 until 1933. He was then suspended, and taken on again unofficially. He came to England in November 1934 to report a Zionist congress for the Gestapo and remained four days. He was again sent to this country by the Gestapo on a special mission; arrived here 2.4.35; was interrogated by the police on 29.5.35 and left at liberty; instructed to leave the country on 27.6.35 and finally left for Brussels on 5.7.35.

"The writer of the article in PARISER TAGEBLATT, like the authors of THE BROWN NET - a book on German agents working in countries outside Germany - is extremely well-informed on events abroad, and singularly ill-acquainted with happenings in England. For instance in the PARISER TAGEBLATT it is said:

"BENEWER'S sudden, and for him entirely unexpected arrest by the English police, had a very surprising sequel. Under interrogation he collapsed, suffered a severe nervous shock, accused himself of treachery of the vilest kind against his oppressed countrymen, and made a full confession.

"All the other details given in the PARISER TAGEBLATT agree with what is known here regarding BENEWER, and the photographic reproduction of the page in his passport is genuine.

BY

"In a report on Nazi agents in England, dated 18.10.35, it is stated that BENNEBER returned to Berlin from England in July 1935; continued to work for the Gestapo, and in August 1935:-

Admitted to Professor SAMMI GRONEMANN, a German political refugee residing at 17, Rue de la Bienfaisance, Paris, VIII, that he had been sent to Lunerne by the Gestapo to report the Zionist Congress there.

"BENNEBER was given the task of observing the Lucerne Zionist Congress by the Gestapo, and even had the opportunity to explain to a well-known delegate from Paris Refugee circles, his reasons for returning to Germany from England. He said that he was now so well known as a Gestapo agent, that it was impossible for him to gain his living in any other manner."

cf. Buchhalter's see journal

"It may also be added that under interrogation BENNEBER admitted having worked in ~~London~~ and in England with a ~~Osaka~~ journalist called KURZ KORNITZER (now interned) Benneber who photographs documents for him. In 1939, when KORNITZER himself was interrogated, he said that BENNEBER had written to him that he had finished with the Gestapo. KORNITZER also admitted that he had received letters from BENNEBER from a concentration camp.

"On 10.11.39, we heard from the Middle East that BENNEBER (this time calling himself SOHWARTZER BARTENSTEIN, from Colombia, S.A.) was attempting to contact various Jewish organizations in Palestine. This would indicate that he is again working for his old masters."

Subject HEINZ BARTENSTEIN TISOHER, after having been in Medellin from November 23, 1943, left for Bogotá on January 17, 1943. All of the information available in the Office of the Extranjeria, Medellin, was set out in reference report of #205, Medellin, Colombia, dated January 20, 1943, entitled "HEINZ BARTENSTEIN TISOHER; Colombia - German Agents." From the information available in the Office of the Extranjeria, Medellin, it was not possible to determine whether Subject had left Colombia during the year 1939.

As British Intelligence information set out in this report indicates that Dr. HARRY CHAIM BENNEBER, alias BARTENSTEIN, alias SOHWARTZER, alias SWERN, was in Palestine attempting to contact

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various Jewish organizations during November, 1939, if it can be definitely established that HEINZ BARTENSTEIN TISCHER, the Subject of this case, was in Colombia for the entire year 1939, this will prove that these two men are not identical.

Therefore, an undeveloped lead is being set out for the Intelligence Section at the American Embassy, Bogota, to ascertain through the Foreigners Office of the Colombian Government whether HEINZ BARTENSTEIN TISCHER was in Colombia for the entire year 1939.

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