

SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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Excerpt of pertinent information :

1. MSBA-175 16 September 1947

BITSCHNAU: About 30. Son-in-law of Vorarlberg lawyer and former Heimwehr leader, POLLATCEK. Lives in Innsbruck, Erzherzog Eugenstr. 17. Austrian at present working for the FIS in Tyrol on anti-Russian intelligence. Stated that he had built up an anti-Russian intelligence service throughout Austria and that through his service he had collected a great deal of interesting material. Fritz WUERTHLE, former Press Referent in Tyrol, got in touch with subject after Austrian Foreign Minister GRUBER hinted that he and some government colleagues in Vienna were considering the possibility of some form of anti-Russian intelligence service in Austria which would supply them with anti-Russian material (anti-Communist) for the next Austrian elections.

2. MSBA-226 3 October 1947

BITSCHNAU: With regard to the formation of an Austrian IS, subject stated that he had had considerable experience as a German intelligence officer during the war and in consequence was interested in only a "professionally organized" service. As an Austrian subject he wished to keep his organization purely Austrian and did not like the idea of working for foreign powers, because although he today had the approval of several of OVP and SPO leaders he someday might be accused of being a foreign agent. The Austrian government was not prepared to set up an official intelligence service and he had no use for party political intelligence organizations. Subject had misgivings about supplying his material to the French, not knowing if they were really trustworthy, but at the same time loath to cut them out. He was also opposed to and intended to resist present American attempts to obtain the exclusive rights to his material. He considered the Americans and French made the most of his material; the British attitude was an enigma to him.

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Subject comes from Heimwehr circles. He is described as a typical German intelligence officer - conceited and very sure of himself, with probably above average organizing talent. Has impressive filing and card index systems;

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- 1 - [] = No Signal

2.

the security measures which he stressed, are not so impressive. At first sight his material looks exciting: verbatim reports of secret Communist meetings, list of Russian and KPO agents, with their pass numbers, reports of conversations between Russian and Austrian Communists, secret instructions to Communist agents, etc., Furthermore, he has stated that he has succeeded in placing agents in numerous Communist organizations, etc., On second glance, however, there are numerous contradictory items in his material and some obvious phonies. It would not be at all surprising if a great deal of his material is intentionally planted on him for transmission to the Western powers. His means of checking on his sources and his sub-sources is limited and entirely inadequate. He has admitted that the best he can do is to check up on the extent to which events proved his material to be correct. Subject met OVP Minister GRAP when the latter was in Innsbruck in 1947 and discussed the possibility of collaboration with him.

THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT WHICH IS PERTINENT TO THE SUBJECT.