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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Austria

SUBJECT Austrian Socialists' Views on Soviet Economic Demands

DATE:

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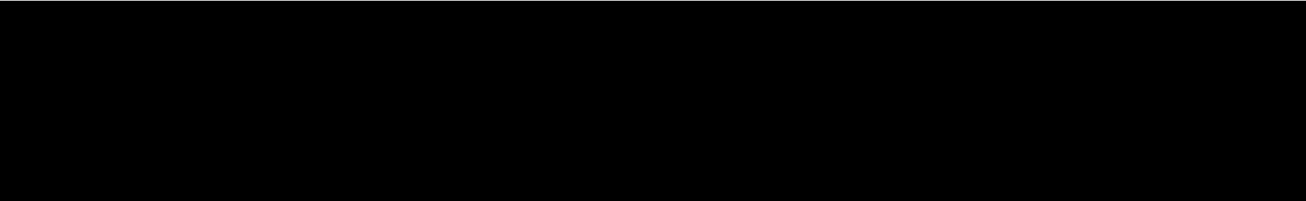
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Director of Central Intelligence
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SOURCE

1. On 14 October 1946, the executive board of the Austrian Socialist Party held a conference under the chairmanship of Dr. Adolf Schaerf; the meeting was attended by all the members of the board with the exception of Oskar Helmer. Schaerf reported on the last meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs.
2. On that occasion Foreign Minister Gruber had requested the members of the Committee to discuss with their parties the question of the Zistersdorf oil interests, the Soviet demand for the repayment in schillings at what were termed "black market" prices of the Soviet credit of RM 600 million, and payment of foodstuffs provided by the Soviets. Gruber wished to know the parties' attitude before the next talks with the Soviets took place.
3. The SPO decided to maintain their previous stand, i.e., to refuse to make the repayment in schillings and to turn down such one-sided terms concerning Zistersdorf that had been offered to the Provisional Government. They held that all negotiations should be conducted with the Allied Council; only Frau Hilde Kroner advocated separate negotiations with the Soviet authorities.

Comment: For further information on Soviet demands, see [redacted].)

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