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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

25X1A2g

DATE DISTR. 22 December 1948

SUBJECT Austrian Communist Party Plan to Split the Socialist Party

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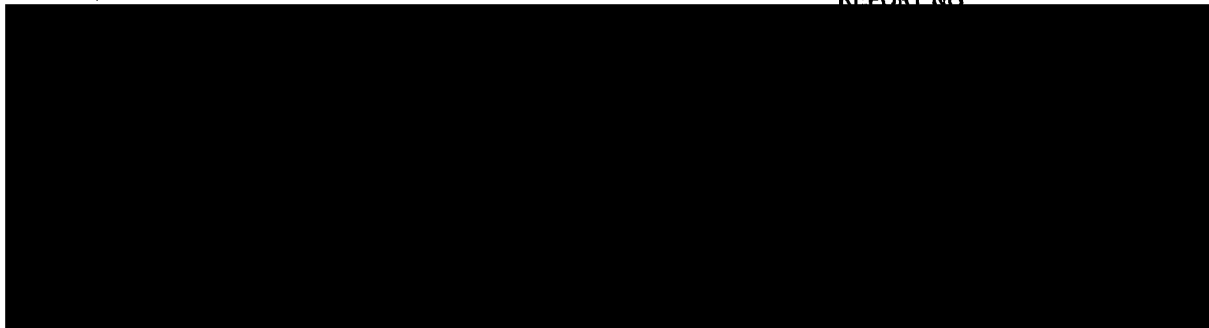
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. At a meeting of Sections 1, 3, and 4 of District II of the Austrian Communist Party in a cafe at 10 Schiffamtsgasse, Vienna II, Franz West, member of the CP Central Committee, discussed Erwin Scharf's pamphlet Ich Darf Nicht Schweigen. West pointed to the pamphlet as evidence of a rift in the Socialist leadership and advised Communists to cite the pamphlet in discussions with Socialists. Comment: Franz West is a recently elected member of the CP Central Committee; he was elected to the Central Committee and the CP Organization Bureau on 2 November 1948.)

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2. In the course of the ensuing discussion, West cited the following Socialist officials who could be useful to the CP in the event of the formation of an Austrian people's democracy:

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- Erwin Scharf
- Friedrich Hillegeist (trade union representative)
- Hilde Kroner Comment: Died on 15 December 1948.)
- Sieberer (fmu) (trade unionist from Steyr)
- Tochenetz (fmu)
- Hindels (fmu) (Central Headquarters Socialist Party)

3. West advised inciting former members of the Austrian Schutzbund against the present Socialist Party and persuading Socialists that their leadership is dominated by capitalism. He pointed out that Scharf's pamphlet mentions the fact that Oscar Pollak had come to Vienna at the request of the British Foreign Office.

4. West indicated that an Austrian crisis is due next spring; he stated that the USA is already counting on the loss of eastern Austria. He said that capitalists are sending their assets to western Austria, and that this is the basis for Soviet insistence on the delivery to them of railroad war booty. According to West, the spring coup will not be accompanied by violence, since the USA cannot risk a war over Austria. West emphasized that all his statements must be regarded as confidential. Comment: It must be kept in mind that these may be West's personal opinions and may not even reflect the prevailing opinions of the CP Central Committee.)

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