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DISPATCH NO. MGFA-6418

SECURITY INFORMATION
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, SE - KAPOK

DATE: 1 April 1952

FROM : Chief of Station, Frankfurt *cf/810*

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

SPECIFIC— ZIPPER Report on CARAVEL

Reference -- MGLA-10538, Paragraph 3 e.

the great diamond flap

1. The Zipper report on Caravel, attached to referenced memo, gave us quite a start, coming as it did on the heels of the other and more serious Caravel security flap described in MGFA-6414. The very day that the zipper report hit my desk, Caravel showed up, and I had a chance to discuss the report in detail with him. I wish to state unequivocally that I informed Caravel precisely where the report had come from, that it was sent to the Verfassungschutz, and what it contained. I did not show him the report, because I had neglected to take along a copy to our meeting. I took this step because Caravel knows what Zipper is, knows of its role in the Verfassungschutz, and because I thought it essential to make, with Caravel's help, a detailed analysis of where Zipper got its information, so that we could judge how much his security had been endangered and what steps we should take.

2. Why the Report was Written:--Caravel was not at all upset about the report. He supposes that Zipper wrote it at the request of the BfV, because in late January 1952, Otto JOHN of the BfV and Dr. Karl SAUER, BfV Referent in the Ministry of the Interior, asked Caravel to take the job of chief of Abt. II of the BfV, the old slot occupied by Dr. CALLEN, the well-known Zipperite who was being eased out of the BfV for real or fancied ineptitude. Caravel said that despite an hour-long plea by JOHN, he declined the post, which involves control of the BfV's informant net. Caravel simply did not want the job. JOHN and SAUER then importuned Rolf HOLLE, former adjutant of the chief of the British Zone Criminal Police Office and now a BKA man. HOLLE too rejected the job, making a quotation from Goetz von Berlichingen with which every German is familiar.

3. Caravel believes that this job offer to him by the BfV inspired Zipper to write their report, which is actually libelous, though painfully close to the truth. We think that Caravel's refusal of the BfV post, coupled with other alibis and defenses he can muster will suffice to protect him against the Zipper charges, if anyone in the German government should choose to believe them.

4. The Zipper Information:--With the help of Caravel and our files, I can make the following analysis of the Zipper information. In the first place, the probable source, and only source, is Frankfurt criminal police official FRIES, whom Caravel knew before World War II and whom he once visited after World War II,

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probably in 1945 or 1946. In general, the information on Caravel in the report is so inaccurate that it obviously is not based on a police record check or a full field investigation, but on the solicited statement of a remote friend or friends of our man.

5. Analysis:--Zipper spells Caravel's name wrong, but that is a minor matter. His position in the BKA is given approximately correctly. The Zeit der Feststellungen (Z.d.F: August 1949 to January 1952) also confirms our belief that Fries is the source, because Fries claims that Caravel visited him in 1949 and very likely Zipper first moved to check on Caravel in January 1952.

6. Caravel served first in the Frankfurt Criminal Police in 1937 and 1938, attended Police Academy in Berlin in 1938 and 1939, and returned to Frankfurt Criminal Police for a few days in July 1939. Zipper's dates are slightly off. Caravel says the assertion that he claimed in 1940 and 1941 to belong to the Geheime Feld Polizei and was looking for Belgian passports is nonsense. He was never in the GFP and was not in Frankfurt in 1940 and 1941. No doubt this Zipper assertion is connected with the next sentence, which alleges that Caravel was believed by his Frankfurt colleagues during 1940 and 1941 to have been murdered in line of duty. In 1942, Caravel did disappear, purposely, on a trip to Paris and he did hide out for a year in Brussels.

7. Caravel was never on police duty in Berlin and he has never even been in Breslau. Zipper's sources confusion is understandable, however, because in October 1939, Caravel was transferred from the police in Karlsruhe to the Abwehr in Stuttgart, where he stayed until his desertion in 1942. No doubt he dropped out of sight of his Frankfurt friends when he entered the Abwehr. We know that when Caravel did desert, the Abwehr and SB did not know for a long time where he had gone and listed him as missing.

8. Zipper's next statement is nearer the truth; that Caravel deserted while on a duty trip to Paris. He did not, however, join the DeGaulle resistance forces. He went to Brussels and hid with friends until July 1943, when he fled to Switzerland. The allegation that he was commissioned as a French officer is based on a rumor circulated in the Hesse political police in 1945 and contained in a CIC report written way back then by CIC S/A J. Thomas Dale. In our file, Dale's report is numbered G-SIPS-504 and dated 17 December 1945. We know, although I cannot find it in the file, that this rumor about Caravel's working for the French sprang from an allegation first circulated by old Hans Venedey, a Communist and first post-war Hessian Minister of the Interior, who was trying to block Caravel's appointment as chief of the Hesse Political Police, which was then up for discussion, but which Caravel would not have accepted anyway. Fries was chief of the Frankfurt political police at that time and undoubtedly had access to the Venedey report on Caravel.

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9. We have no reason to think that Caravel is working for the French or has ever worked for them. He is not pro-French, and he has never shown any of the curiosity that usually marks a double agent. Caravel did have irregular contacts with the French Military Government liaison officer in Wiesbaden for some years after the war, because he had to apply for inter-zonal travel permits to visit his family in the French Zone and because he was fighting the French MG in his home area, which was trying to expel Caravel and his wife from their zone as refugees. That was back in the days when the French Zone did not receive refugees from other zones.

10. As to Caravel's residence in HACHENBURG, he does have his residence near there, but not in Hachenburg itself. His wife is not from Hachenburg, but from Hamburg, where her father was a director of a large company. Caravel's only relatives who have lived for any length of time around Hachenburg are an uncle and aunt, who run an inn in a small village near Hachenburg. These errors on Sloper's part indicate that they did not attempt to make a check in the Hachenburg area, but relied on the memory of their source.

11. The next statement, to the effect that during the war Caravel was liaison man from the ~~Wribo~~ ^{Wribo} to the Abwehr in Stuttgart is not true, but it is obviously based on the facts that Caravel was with the Wribo in Karlsruhe and was transferred thence to the Abwehr in Stuttgart.

12. The statements on Caravel's return to Germany after the war are, of course, very provocative. Caravel did visit Fries in the Frankfurt Police Praesidium soon after this return to Germany, but it was in the period from 1945 to 1947, and not as late as 1949. He visited Fries only once. He sensed that Fries was very much afraid that Caravel was after his job, but Caravel actually was not. Caravel declined to accept any post the Hessian or Frankfurt City police offered because he did not like their political tinge, which was pro-communist and pro-SPD at the time.

13. The allegation that Caravel told Fries that he was working for the Americans, often flew to Berlin, and that he performed important secret intelligence functions, is, as far as we know, gratuitous libel. Caravel never flew to Berlin, never visited Berlin after the war, and as far as I know, never did any secret work for us after the war. Moreover, Caravel, as a long string of case officers and senior intelligence men of this organization can testify, is not the kind of egotistical idiot who tells people he works for American intelligence. The next statement, that Caravel attributed his flight in 1941 to the fact that he had even then been engaged in intelligence work (presumably against Germany) is untrue, first, because Caravel did not flee for this reason, and, second, because he never would have admitted it if he had been engaged in espionage in 1941.

14. The final paragraph on Caravel's character is part wrong and part right. Caravel is definitely intelligent; in fact, extremely so, but he is not pathologically ambitious. His patient waiting for four post-war years before

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he actively sought a job in the Kripo again testifies to his lack of this kind of ambition. When he re-entered the Kripo, he only got his old pre-war rating, and he had to wait for over two years to get a promotion. These snubs of fate never affected his capacity for work at all.

15. Zipper's final allegation, that Caravel probably claimed association with the American IS without basis and just to build himself up, is apparently a final stab in the dark, to convince the readers in the BfV that although this man may never have been a US agent, he is at least a braggart and a swine, unfit to hold his present job. This kind of "intelligence reporting" needs no comment.

16. The "Note" which ends the Zipper report is very revealing. There is an admission that there is no fast proof of Caravel's earlier hostile intelligence activity or of his present connections of this type. It is nice to know how this Zipper CE desk man classifies people who have worked for the Allies, including the Americans; we are definitely "feindlich." Zipper's supposition that their data should be reported because the interests of the BKA are directly affected is more correct than Zipper realizes and cannot be criticized on professional or ethical grounds, as much as I would like to do so. Caravel's activity certainly has affected the BKA. He planned its T/O, equipment, budget, legal framework, functions, location, office building, and hand picked all its staff. I suspect that his success in doing this tremendous task, all without the support, interference, and knowledge of Zipper, rankles in the breasts of some of the Zipper CE people, who suddenly realize that they have been left out in the cold. Caravel's rejection of Dr. Callen as chief of the Security group must also irk them.

17. I might add that our running of Caravel has never had any anti-Zipper trace. The Caravel and Zipper operations have rarely if ever touched. We have always left Caravel a perfectly free hand in picking people for the BKA.

18. Conclusion:--The Zipper security report on Caravel presents a serious security threat to the operation. In essence, the report is correct; Caravel is an American agent, and a good one. The basis, however, on which Zipper reaches this dramatic conclusion, is not a sound one, and the "facts" they array to prove their point have little evidential value, fortunately for us. If Caravel is ever questioned about the charges made in the report, he will not be at all surprised or scared, but will lash back with refutations and denials which, we hope, will save him. Caravel has never made a secret of his war-time activity in Switzerland; his records in the Ministry of the Interior indicate that he assisted the American and Swiss authorities in Switzerland toward the end of the war, and he can prove that his main work for us was arranging to save some of the most important criminal police files in the state of Baden from destruction at war's end.

19. Also in Caravel's file is a letter of recommendation from Mr. James C. McCraw, then chief of HICOG Public Safety, testifying to Caravel's good character and the esteem in which Public Safety held him. Caravel had to have such a letter to overcome the handicap of his assimilated SS rank, and the letter did the trick. During the many months of the build-up of the BKA, Caravel's superiors constantly called on him to intervene with "the Americans" to get the BKA law approved, despite its centralistic character, which ran directly

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counter to existing tri-partite Allied directives. The law passed and was approved by the Allied High Commission, despite some last minute objections by US and French representatives. In the eyes of the Ministry of the Interior, it was Caravel's contact with US Public Safety which accomplished this miracle. Actually, Caravel had no contact with the Public Safety Division after 1948; his contact was with us.

20. There are few important German police officials now holding office who did not get their posts as appointees of some Allied Military Government authority after the war. German police operations were, moreover, run closely by MG for several years, and high German police authorities conferred daily with their Allied bosses. Political cooperation in de-Nazification investigations and so on was very close. Caravel is far less tainted by such cooperation than any other prominent German police official, at least to outward appearances, because he never held any office by sufferance of MG. His first post-war job was with the Federal Republic itself.

21. We have put Caravel to sleep for a few months because of this and other security problems (see MGFA-6414). He is watching very carefully for surveillance traps, change in his status, by-passing of his desk, and so on. I have left up to him the exact time and method of our next contact, feeling that he can best judge the situation. He is apprised of all the known details of the security dangers confronting him, and I am confident that this splendid operation will survive.

22. For obvious reasons, Caravel report production will drop off sharply for some time.

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