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WAR DEPARTMENT

M. I. D.

MID 201. Brassert, H. A.

January 8, 1942

(Date)

Subject: HERMAN A. BRASSERT

Summary of Information:

A report dated January 20, 1941 concerning H. A. Brassert was given by Mr. H. W. Broadfield, former European employee for the Inland Steel Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, and sets forth the following:

Brassert is the authority engaged by the Peruvian Government for the purpose of investigating the possibility of a steel industry in Peru. Broadfield stated that he had heard reports that Brassert is the son of a former German agent for the Hamburg-Amerika Line in Plymouth, England and his mother is British. Sir Andrew Duncan is reportedly familiar with the entire story of Brassert's activities and is of the opinion that Brassert made available to the German authorities plans and other details concerning the British Steel Industry and had applied for British citizenship many years after having become a naturalized American, but before the outbreak of hostilities, Brassert considered it expedient to depart from the United Kingdom.

Broadfield reported having attended a banquet in Dusseldorf, Germany where Marshal Goering described the Goering Steel Works and introduced Brassert, the technical advisor of the installation, as his cousin.

Broadfield believes that Brassert's first interest is not the construction of steel plants, but rather the propagation of Nazi doctrines, and that Brassert's objective in associating himself with the project of steel industries in the United States was for the sole purpose of selling Krupp equipment. Brassert's organization in the United States is staffed chiefly by Germans with Nazi inclinations.

Broadfield claims that all of the foregoing information may be

Previous Distribution:

Distribution:

Evaluation	
of source	of information
Reliable	_____
Credible	_____
Questionable	_____
✓ Undetermined	✓ _____

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verified by consulting President W. Sykes of the Inland Steel Corporation, who is believed to have informed the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The report states that it is to be mentioned that Broadfield is a steel producer who, by his own statements, is opposed to the use of American money for establishing competitive steel mills in South America. It is not known to what extent this attitude may influence the statements made above.

A report from Lima, Peru dated January 24, 1941 to the Secretary of State, signed by R. Henry Norweb, sets forth the activities of Mr. W. H. Broadfield, representative of the Inland Steel Corporation in Chicago, and makes reference to Mr. H. A. Brassert's activities in attempting to establish a steel industry in Peru far beyond the country's economic and financial capacity.

A report dated January 4, 1941 from the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Second Corps Area, sets forth the following information:

Herman A. Brassert and Company are consulting engineers, New York City, doing a large scale international business on construction and appraisals in the steel and iron industry, with headquarters in New York City and offices in Chicago, Pittsburgh, London and formerly in Berlin. Brassert is reported by reliable informant to have some business connection with Axel Wenner-Gren including South American developments financed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Brassert and his organization have a high standing in the engineering field.

Report also states that it has been reported by an Army Reserve Officer who has business connections with the Brassert firm that that company is engaged in supervising certain National Defense construction.

A Monthly Intelligence Summary from the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Second Corps Area dated March 5, 1941 states that a biographical summary of H. A. Brassert and Company, New York City, indicates close affiliations with leading Nazis and Nazi sympathizers.

A memorandum from the Department of State dated June 23, 1941 sets forth the following information:

Mr. A. O. Barker, Vice President of H. A. Brassert and Company, assured the Department of State, in a request for the extension of the passport of Karl Weinel, chief engineer of the German company of H. A. Brassert and Company in Berlin, that the American firm has no interest whatsoever in the German company of the same name, and added that Mr. Brassert had not only disassociated himself from the German Company, but had also recommended personally to each American employee in Germany to pursue a similar course.

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However, on March 5, 1941 Weinerl appeared at the Consulate in Berlin and made the following statement which is in conflict with those made by the Vice President of the American firm, Mr. Barker:

"I am one of the European directors of the Berlin Office of the Brassert Company which has its head office in New York. Mr. H. A. Brassert is the head of the firm, and the Berlin Office employs a number of Americans here. There are, however, German directors, but this is to facilitate the dealings with the local authorities. We have contracts here which we are finishing up, of a private nature, and also some fees yet to collect from the work recently completed with the Herman Goering Steel Company. The firm is a firm of Consulting engineers for the construction of steel plants and similar types of industrial establishments. The company also has contracts in Jugoslavia, Denmark and Spain. I do not know when I shall be ordered to return to the United States."

A report dated September 8, 1917 sets forth the following information concerning Herman A. Brassert, 5488 Everette Avenue, Chicago, Illinois:

Brassert is head of the Blast Furnace Department, Illinois Steel Works and his father is head of the Kaiser William Iron Works in Germany which is second in size to Krupp. The Kaiser is Godfather to Brassert's children.

A report from Headquarters Sixth Corps Area dated February 12, 1938 sets forth information obtained from Mr. E. M. Goodman, an attorney of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, representative of the bond holders of the bankrupt St. Louis Gas and Coke Company. H. A. Brassert and Company had offered Goodman as agent approximately \$350,000 for a 600-ton blast furnace, located near St. Louis, Missouri. It was intended by the Brassert Company to dismantle the furnace and equipment and ship it from Baltimore to some foreign country. Mr. Goodman believes, though the Brassert Company will not disclose the final disposition of the furnace, that it will be shipped to Japan.

A report dated March 5, 1937 from the Military Attache at Istanbul, Turkey, refers to a modern steel and iron plant to be constructed at Karabuk by H. A. Brassert and Company, Limited, of London.

A report from the Military Attache, London, dated January 12, 1939 refers to the installation of the Herman Goering Iron Plant, installed by the Brassert Company of London.

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A letter to the State Department dated September 11, 1939 from A. J. Boynton, Vice President of H. A. Brassert and Company, states that it is extremely urgent for Mr. Brassert to return to Germany immediately to look after the interest of the Company in Germany. The letter requests special validation of the passport for Herman A. Brassert to return to Germany.

A letter from Mr. H. A. Brassert to the State Department dated September 8, 1939 furnishes the following information:

Brassert is President of the firm of H. A. Brassert and Company in Chicago and of branches of that Company located in London and in Berlin. The Company is engaged in the installation and design of steel plant equipment and was the contractor in the construction of the Herman Goering Corporation. Brassert claims that it is of extreme importance to the reputation of his Company that these plants be completed and be successful and claims that his business in Germany, for which he requests the passport, is necessary to the successful completion of the plants. Brassert also states that his office in Germany has a staff of approximately twenty-five Americans, some English engineers and more than 750 German engineers, supervisors, inspectors, etc. The Company is a German Company and is classified as a personal liability company and the majority of the stock belongs to Brassert. 47  
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A communication dated May 16, 1940 from Julius H. Tauber of Beloit, Wisconsin refers to a Mr. Armin Holper who, according to Tauber, is positively known to have held a commission in the German Army with the rank of Captain.

According to a memorandum from the Department of State dated June 10, 1940 with reference to this communication, Holper is probably in the employ of the H. A. Brassert Company.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation report dated July 8, 1940 sets forth the following information concerning Herman Alexander Brassert:

The Anti-Defamation League informs that Brassert is a cousin of Herman Goering of Germany. Brassert is supposed to control the Askania Regulator Company of Chicago. Brassert is a native of London, England; was graduated from the College of Mining and Metallurgy, Berlin, Germany in 1896; came to the United States in October, 1897. He held responsible positions in large steel companies in the United States and entered business for himself in 1918 as consulting and constructing engineer throughout the world. He made a trip late in 1938 to England and then to Germany in 1939, where he was supposed to have worked on a large munitions plant. He returned to the United States prior to September, 1939 and recently left for South America. Brassert's company

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has a net worth of over a million dollars.

The report states that Gerhard Stabke, an alien, is connected with the Askania Regulator Company. He is supposed to be quite active in all German affairs in Chicago and frequently makes trips to Mexico and South America and contacts the German Consulate office in each place. The majority of the personnel of the Askania Regulator Company seems to be of German citizenship or derivation. The report indicates no direct evidence of subversive activities.

A report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated September 13, 1940 sets forth the following information:

The Brassert Company moved their main offices to New York City so that the Company might keep in touch with the Manchurian Railroad office because of an immense project in Manchuria. Information was received from a newspaper man in Chicago to the effect that the Brassert firm is an intermediary for certain industrial leaders in England presently doing business with industrial leaders in Germany, and vice versa, despite the war. Brassert is supposed to be a business associate of Fritz Theisen (Thyssen?) assigned from Germany. Apparently the Chicago Daily News sets forth considerable information concerning Brassert and Ernst A. Ten Eichen, inasmuch as extensive reference is made to that newspaper in the subject report.

The report sets forth a communication received in the Chicago Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from Mr. L. M. Hamburger of the Hamburger Company, Liquor Distributors. Mr. Hamburger states that Mr. Brassert had spent substantial time in Germany and was well acquainted with Herman Goering. At the present time, according to Hamburger, Brassert was making a survey of conditions in South America for the purpose of establishing a steel mill there. Among those interested in the South American venture was one Fritz Theisen (Thyssen?). Hamburger further stated that Charles Brassert, son of H. A. Brassert, had personal papers from Herman Goering and was permitted anywhere that his fancy led him.

Another communication, source unidentified, is also mentioned in this Federal Bureau of Investigation report. Reference is made to Brassert's status as a cousin and friend of Goering. The communication stated that Brassert was mixed up in many different ventures, especially tar and petroleum, in addition to steel, and has stool pigeons on the boards of many big American industrial companies. An employee of one of Brassert's subsidiaries is believed to have been the United States Military Attache in Madrid in 1930.

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According to the report, Ernest Ten Eichen was ousted as an employee of the Brassert Company as a result of his exposure by the Chicago Daily News as President of the German-American National Alliance during July, 1940. A confidential informant states that Brassert undoubtedly is a tremendously important person to the German Government and very sympathetic to the German cause.

A report from the Assistant Chief of Staff, C-2, Second Corps Area dated February 25, 1941 states that H. A. Brassert is said by a reliable source to be pro-Nazi and in touch with the Nazis through one Furstenaw (Fuerstenaw). The report adds that another informant states that Brassert is a friend of Axel Wenner-Gren, Swedish industrialist understood to be on intimate terms with leading Nazis. The names of both men appear on a door in Brassert's office in New York City. Brassert and Company is reported to have obtained funds from Jessie Jones for exploitation of concessions in South America (It is not known whether this was meant to indicate official R.F.C. advances).

A report from Colonel Sharp dated March 4, 1941 furnishes the following information from Mr. William G. Moler, assistant representative of Cia. Fundidora de Hierro y Acero de Monterrey, S. A., in New York, who believes that this H. A. Brassert and Company is definitely pro-German. Brassert and Company is bidding on expansion work for Moler Company.

A communication from the Department of State dated June 11, 1941 incloses a copy of the communication dated June 5, 1941 from Ruth Shipley inclosing a report from the Post Office Inspector in Charge at Chicago, Illinois concerning the antecedents of Ethel Mohr Brassert, the wife of H. A. Brassert. Ruth Shipley's statement is to the effect that Mrs. Brassert is a close relative of Vice Chancellor Goering of Germany are not true.

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