

CONFIDENTIAL

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AGENT REPORT

SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INFORMATION
Democratic Union Information from
Dobretsberger

18 February 1953

CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

V-3436

REPORT OF

IB	CIB	LN	OPNS
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The following information was obtained from this Agent during an interview with casual source Karl Kober on 11 February 1953. Kober, according to his own statement, was formerly a General Secretary of the Demokratische Union (Democratic Union - DU) and one of the closest collaborators of Prof. Josef Dobretsberger, the leader of the Democratic Union.

Although Dobretsberger tries to make it appear that the DU is not Communist dominated and that he himself is operating independently of the Communists and the Soviets, the true situation is in fact quite different. Dobretsberger receives his orders directly from a Soviet civilian who is known to Source as (fnu) Semantkov. Source has seen Semantkov but could describe him only as about six feet tall with a heavy muscular build. Semantkov speaks very poor German and is invariably accompanied by a young Ukrainian man who speaks excellent German and acts as Semantkov's interpreter. Source also offered the information that a Dr. (fnu) Fellingner, MD, might be able to give a more accurate description of Semantkov since Fellingner, according to Dobretsberger, once treated Semantkov. Although Dobretsberger and Semantkov meet very frequently, they are very careful about the security of their meetings. To Source's knowledge, the meetings always take place either at Dobretsberger's Vienna apartment, which is located in Vienna I (International), Singerstrasse 27, or in Semantkov's automobile, a black BMW sedan. Meetings are arranged by telephone in the following manner: Dobretsberger calls Semantkov at the number U-41525 and requests a meeting for a certain hour in front of a specified street address. The meetings always take place two hours after the time specified in the telephone conversation, and the two men meet in front of the building which is fifty numbers higher than the address specified.

Although Semantkov gives Dobretsberger instructions concerning the activities of the DU, the money to support both Dobretsberger and his organization is not passed directly from the Soviets to Dobretsberger. The money is passed through the KGB and is given to Ruth Fischer who delivers it to her close friend, Marla Dobretsberger, wife of Josef Dobretsberger. Each month Dobretsberger receives from 100,000 to 110,000 Schillings. Out of this sum he is allowed 20,000 Schillings for his own expenses and the rest is used to support the DU. In addition, on certain occasions Dobretsberger has received larger amounts to be used for specified projects. For example, in 1949, Dobretsberger received 1.5 million Schillings to be used as a campaign fund in the parliamentary elections which took place at that time.

Dobretsberger's present deputy, Engineer Richard Volf, Vienna XIII (Breitfeld), Melchertgasse 23, plays a double role within the DU. In addition to serving as Dobretsberger's deputy, he also has his own contacts directly with the Soviets and reports monthly to a Soviet in Vienna I, Kantgasse, concerning

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3. TYPE NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SOURCE

430th SIG, AFD-1st SIG (Vienna)

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property on a group of irresponsible former Nazis.

(P-6)

Agent's Note: Because of the nature of the information provided by Source, this report is difficult to evaluate. Source was able to meet this Agent only for a short time on 11 February 1953, since he was leaving Vienna on a business trip on that date. Source will return to Vienna on or about 18 February 1953 and has promised to bring with him a detailed written account of his knowledge of the DU and of Dobretsberger's activities, plus documentary proof of the amount of money received and spent by the DU and a roster of the party membership which is complete and accurate up to the beginning of November 1952.

On 11 February 1953, S/A Anthony Frank, a Russian linguist of this Sub-Attachment, called the telephone number V-41525, and asked to speak to Semantkov. The telephone was answered by a man (m) speaking Russian who said that Semantkov could not be reached at that number.

(P-6)

A check with the Information Office of the Vienna Telephone Exchange on 12 February 1953 revealed that the number V-41525 is an unregistered number which belongs to one of the Allied Occupation Powers. No information can be revealed concerning this number.

(B-2)

The files of this Office contain the following information pertaining to the personalities mentioned in this report:

Prof. Josef Dobretsberger is mentioned innumerable times as the leader of the Democratic Union (B-1), a prominent figure in the KPÖ's 1953 election group, the People's Opposition (B-2) and as a fellow traveler active in arranging trade between Austria and the USSR (B-2).

Karl Kober was formerly Styrian provincial organizer for the OeVP, but he was forced to resign in 1949 when it was learned that he was involved in the black marketing of USRA goods. Through his friendship with Richard Volf, he obtained a position in the DU and was responsible for its reorganization.

(P-6)

Files contain no record of (fmu) Semantkov, and the Dr. Follinger mentioned in this report cannot be identified from the information provided.

Engineer Richard Volf is mentioned in numerous reports as a former OeVP member who was forced to leave that party and who then set up the DU (B-3). No longer the leader, he is still a member of the national committee of (B-3), and is the editor of the DU newspaper (B-2). He is in direct contact with the Soviets (C-3) and has close connections with a young KVD officer

Ernst Zelner is listed in many reports as a prominent member of the

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Dobretsberger's activities and the use to which the Soviet funds have been put. On one occasion the Soviets arranged what appeared to Source to be a test fight for power between Dobretsberger and Wolf. This occurred in October 1952 when Wolf was instructed by his Soviet control agent to arrange a mass meeting of the DU and to sway the membership so that Dobretsberger would be thrown out of the party. Wolf, who would like to run the party himself and who looks down on Dobretsberger as his intellectual inferior, completed the arrangements and was firmly convinced that he had rigged the voting in such a manner that Dobretsberger would be excluded from the DU. Three days before the mass meeting was to take place, Wolf was told by the Soviets that he was not to hold the meeting and he was not to touch Dobretsberger. Furthermore, Wolf was ordered to contact the people who were helping him and to undo all the harm he had done to Dobretsberger's reputation. Dobretsberger heard of Wolf's machinations and since that time there has been a great deal of personal animosity between the two men; however, both men continue to play an active part in the DU on the orders of their Soviet superiors. Source was not able to identify Wolf's Soviet control agent, but he did state that Wolf is frequently picked up in a Soviet sedan bearing license number P-33864.

Wolf is not the only man whose primary job is to watch Dobretsberger. Since the KPOs also have an interest in Dobretsberger's activities, they have placed their own man, Richard Zeltner, in the DU as General Secretary. He also reports on Dobretsberger's activities but forwards his reports to someone in the central committee of the Communist Party.

In addition to their overt political activities, both Dobretsberger and Wolf are engaged in collecting economic and industrial espionage material. Dobretsberger works through Hall Duplidsor in Styria and Dr. (fmu) Oupach in Salzburg. Wolf's contact men are Katharina Zoscher in Graz, (fmu) Kargl, a former Nazi now living in Salzburg, and Dr. (fmu) Kneepfler, a former DU man now living in Tyrol. These two nets collect information on new building projects which might be put to military use, on heavy industry, and to some degree on Western military installations. The reports are turned in to Wolf and Dobretsberger who forward them to their Soviet contacts.

Source also provided some information on Dr. Adolph Flork's National League. Source obtained information from Dobretsberger that the National League was originally set up to provide a nucleus of former military personnel who could be used as a cadre for an Austrian People's Police. The National League was not intended to function as a political party; however, it did have a definite status to be carried out in the event of an attempted coup by the executives. The National League was to carry out any actions which had to be accomplished by force, per se, the occupation of Government buildings. In this way, if the DU are successful, the Government will immediately have control of the military and police, but if the DU are not successful, they will have a nucleus of men who can be used for other purposes.

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Reference Dictionary

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...a Peace Council (B-1) who has spoken on occasion at National League (B-2). He has also been affiliated with other short-lived Communist group organizations (B-2).

Files contain no record of Duplissy or Dupson.

Mathias Eberhard was arrested by CIC on 27 September 1943 and turned over to Austrian authorities for prosecution under the Anti-Nazi laws. (B-2)

Files contain numerous references to Anton Engel, probably identical with the (cm) Engel of this report. He is a prominent functionary of the CP in Salzburg (B-1), and a leader in the Anti-Nazi Society and the Austrian Peace Council (B-1).

A Dr. (cm) Inceplur is listed as the local secretary of the CP in Gmund (B-3) and as a member of the national Directorate of the People's Revolution (B-3).

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