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A U S T R I A

November 28, 1951 (P/03436)

SUBJECT: Fritjof RIEDL trying to uncover Josef KAUT as Communist Agent

Time : Middle of November 1951

Received: November 28, 1951

PP 5

1. The following report is based on information received from a collaborator with Salzburg Police Direction.

2. ^{ATT-5} Fritjof RIEDL is ^{ATT-5} presently endeavoring to unmask Josef KAUT, editor-in-chief of the Salzburg Socialist daily 'Demokratisches Volksblatt', as Communist agent. For such purpose RIEDL has won Walter F. ZIEHSACK, member of 'Demokratisches Volksblatt' editorial staff, as collaborator. As ZIEHSACK has promised RIEDL, he will furnish him with respective material, especially concerning KAUT's secret Communist connections. ZIEHSACK further stated that KAUT is handing informations received from SPOe party secretary and Landtagsabgeordneter Ernst HALLINGER to Communist Party (probably without HALLINGER knowledge). Besides KAUT was collecting intelligence on leading Salzburg US personalities and on Salzburg internal political life for the Communists. It is however unknown, whether the latter work is done by order of Communists or Socialists.

3. RIEDL also intends to take up personal connection with KAUT, probably thru 'Verband der sozialistischen Studenten und Akademiker', whose chairman KAUT is.

4. RIEDL claims to know that KAUT is already suspected by his party fellows to hold secret connections with Communists, and that he is considered an extreme leftist. However, for his excellent local connections and journalistic abilities he is still tolerated.

5. Please handle above information with care as not to disclose source.

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