

FROM:

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

XARZ-28641

Accession No.

Date Rec'd SA

To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments
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1. G-1		5/3	5/10	JW	Check copy of [unclear] in [unclear] folder.
2. G		7/10	7/13	SAH	When reading this document note that [unclear] has gone to [unclear] copy.
3. W-1					
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5.					<p>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2001 2008</p> <p>Wash - Reg - Inst - 175 Box 15</p> <p>X REF FORM FILED IN: []</p>
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 A line should be drawn across sheet under each comment.
 Officer Designations should be used in To column.
 Each Officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing.
 Action desired or action taken should be indicated in Comments column.
 Routing sheet should always be returned to Registry.
 For Officer Designations see separate sheet.

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POUCH 430

XX-11637

12 April, 1946

XARZ-28641

TO: SAINT, Washington
FROM: SAINT, London PP
SUBJECT: Hans ZEIDLER INTERROGATION REPORT

Attached is a copy of the CSDIC(WEA)BAOR, SIR
No. 20 on ZEIDLER, 2-1-46

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SPECIAL INTERROGATION REPORT

ON

Dr Hans Martin ZEIDLER *ad*

Ref: BAOR/INT/2428(363) dated 24 Sep 45
See Also: CSDIC(WEA) Interim Report 21 dated 23 Oct 45
CSDIC(WEA) Second Interim Report 31 dated 30 Oct 45
CSDIC(WEA) Third Interim Report 40 dated 6 Nov 45
CSDIC(WEA) Final Report 4 dated 22 Nov 45

AMT VI ACTIVITY IN SWITZERLAND

1. Prisoner states that owing to his function of attending to the economic side of contacts important to the GIS, the following instances of infiltration by Amt VI in business deals with SWITZERLAND came within his sphere.
2. The firm WARENVERTRIEBS GmbH, BERLIN, an import and export concern dealing in all types of merchandise, was owned and managed by a certain SS Hptstuf EGGEN, who at the same time was a member of the Waffen SS and at the outbreak of war was attached to Amt VI. From time to time EGGEN made purchases for the Waffen SS through the WARENVERTRIEBS GmbH, and in autumn 1941 he became very friendly with SCHIELLENBERG, head of Amt VI, who eventually employed him, not only because of his commercial connections in BERLIN, but also because he had a great number of connections in other countries, including the BALKANS and SWITZERLAND, the latter being of particular interest to Amt VI. *ad*

During the winter of 1941-42 EGGEN was requested by the Waffen SS and the Wirtschafts- and Verwaltungshauptamt to buy from SWITZERLAND through his firm hutments to the value of 5-6 million Swiss francs. Payment was to be made in cash, in accordance with the German-Swiss Trade Agreement; time-limits were fixed for delivery and payment was to follow immediately. As Amt VI was short of funds in SWITZERLAND to enable it to carry out its int tasks, SCHIELLENBERG seized upon this transaction as a means of financing his schemes, but as the price of the hutments had been fixed and approved by the Wirtschaftsministerium in BERLIN, it was not possible to increase it and make the difference in price available to Amt VI. To overcome this obstacle, EGGEN proposed to float a company in SWITZERLAND, which would exist in name only, to negotiate the hutment transaction, thus enabling him to add a commission to the price agreed upon, which sum would be placed at SCHIELLENBERG's disposal. SCHIELLENBERG's plan was to use the money to finance ROTHMUND, the head of the Swiss Alien Police, with whom he had connection. SCHIELLENBERG readily agreed to EGGEN's proposals and EGGEN proceeded with the scheme; HOLZACH(?), the head of the Wood Syndicate, and Dr MEYER(?), EGGEN's legal adviser, were included in the new company, but took no active part in it. A non-committal designation, "Interkommerz" or something similar, was chosen by EGGEN and 60,000 Swiss francs, the commission on the hutment transaction, were ultimately obtained for the "new firm". Prisoner states that the receipt for this money is among the Amt VI Wi documents in BERLIN; it was made out by "Interkommerz", but was NOT signed by ROTHMUND; it may have been signed by MEYER or HOLZACH. Prisoner does NOT know whether ROTHMUND actually received any of this money. *ad*

How the 60,000 Swiss francs were transferred to SWITZERLAND Prisoner does NOT know; if they were transferred through a Bank evidence ought to be found in the "Interkommerz" books; but Prisoner thinks it more likely

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that EGGEN took the money to SWITZERLAND in cash. Who the recipients in SWITZERLAND were, was obviously a matter which had to be kept secret.

The Swiss firms who arranged the hutment deal and EGGEN's legal adviser received only the usual commercial commission; no special commission was paid on this transaction, as this would have meant that the prices demanded by the Wood Syndicate would have been higher than those of private firms, in which case the German authorities would not have sanctioned the deal.

Whether the Swiss firms or EGGEN's legal adviser received any money beyond their fixed commissions out of the 60,000 Swiss francs which were at the disposal of "Interkommerz" is a question which Prisoner is unable to answer as it did not interest him; his rôle was to shelve the accusations made against EGGEN of running a foreign exchange swindle in connection with the hutment transaction.

3. In summer 43 Germany no longer had any foreign currency available in SWITZERLAND, and as the German armament programme depended to some extent upon deliveries of certain tools and machinery from that country, numerous attempts were made to expand the volume of German-Swiss trade by means of "special agreements".

Prisoner became aware of these negotiations at the end of summer 43, and SCHELLENBERG requested him to endeavour to obtain Swiss currency in cash for the benefit of Amt VI from these transactions.

An example of this was the proposal presented to the Swiss Kriegstechnische Abt by the RLM in 1943 to deliver immediately eight Messerschmitts in exchange for certain tools and machines to the corresponding value. Prisoner therefore visited the head of the RLM, but was told that it was quite impossible to convert goods-clearing into cash-clearing in foreign currency, and any German demands to this effect would jeopardise the conclusion of the agreement. If the Amt, however, could take on the responsibility of declaring that it was absolutely necessary in the interests of the Reich to obtain Swiss currency by making the deal a cash-clearing one, the case would assume a different aspect. Prisoner put this suggestion to the Referent for SWITZERLAND, AHRENS, *ccw* so that he could obtain a decision from a higher authority, but as far as he knows the Amt derived no foreign currency for its int commitments from this transaction; he heard nothing further about the matter except that the agreement was finally concluded by the RLM in its original form.

4. Amt VI Employment of Swiss Individuals

SCHELLENBERG was opposed to employing people from Swiss Nazi circles on int work in SWITZERLAND for the following reasons:

- a) Dr ROTHMUND had informed him (see IR 40, para 6) that such persons were to be regarded with caution, from the point of view of knowledge and of character, their main interests being financial, and as SCHELLENBERG was anxious not to harm his good relations with ROTHMUND, he had agreed not to use such people for int work.
- b) The welfare of Swiss Nazis domiciled in GERMANY was the responsibility of Dr RIEDWEG of the SS-Führungshauptamt, and there had been an agreement between SCHELLENBERG and RIEDWEG that these persons, if suitable for int work, were to be placed at the disposal of Amt VI, on the understanding that they should not be employed actually in SWITZERLAND. *ccw*

Prisoner believes that this policy was firmly adhered to by the Amt; at least in his own Amt VI Wi he had no connection with any Swiss or other foreigner operating against SWITZERLAND; any such activities were to be attributed to the relative Länderreferate.

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One of Prisoner's duties was to obtain positions in German offices and firms for people of no further use to the GIS, and he gives the following account of his knowledge of one Jean CHARLES, a Swiss merchant about 35 years of age.

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CHARLES had left SWITZERLAND as a consequence of being convicted there because of his political views, and had settled in the MUNICH area. He therefore came under the surveillance of the SS-Führungshauptamt, who brought him to the notice of SCHELLENBERG as he seemed suitable for work with Amt VI, and it was decided to employ him on int work in the SOUTH of FRANCE and MONACO. Gestapo investigations, however, led to his being suspected of Bolshevist tendencies, and as a result of this SCHELLENBERG regarded him as being unreliable and declined to sanction the mission. Prisoner was therefore commissioned to get rid of CHARLES in such a way as to avoid any repercussions on the Amt, and as CHARLES knew very little German, but had some knowledge of banking and spoke fluent French, Prisoner placed him at the disposal of SCHÄFER, Reichskommissar for the Bank of France, who subsequently found him a position in the Aerobank in PARIS (spring 44). Prisoner heard later from the Aerobank in BERLIN that instead of being evacuated with the German authorities and business firms on the fall of PARIS, CHARLES had gone to the SOUTH of FRANCE or MONACO, but had not been given any int commission. Prisoner believes that CHARLES' wife returned to SWITZERLAND.

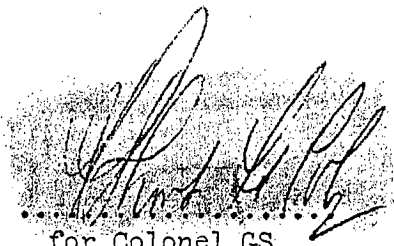
5. Financial Arrangements for Amt VI Commitments

To finance int services the RWM placed at the disposal of Amt VI a sum of RM 250,000 monthly (see IR 21, para 6). This amount was then converted by the Reichsbank into Swiss francs, because of the recognised stability of Swiss currency, and made available to Amt VI in that form; it was then reconverted into whatever currency Amt VI required.

The amount was controlled by the Finance Dept of the Amt. The relative Länderreferat had to state the reasons for each demand for currency, which were examined by the Amtschef, who either sanctioned or refused it, and if sanctioned the demand then went to the Finance Dept who paid it direct to the Länderreferat.

Prisoner does NOT know the individual estimates of the Länderreferate, nor does he know how currency was transferred to SWITZERLAND.

CSDIC(WEA)
BAOR
29 Mar 46


for Colonel GS
Commandant CSDIC(WEA)

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