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Via: Air

Dispatch No. MSZA-118

To: Chief, FBM

Date: 21 December 1948

From: C

Subject: General - EQUAL  
Specific - Dr. Herbert ENGELSING

Ref: MSZA-117

1. The information below was derived as follows: Franz SCHMIDT, Bupo Inspector for the Canton of Turgau, who had been handling ENGELSING's case previous to the latter's departure for the US, was contacted by ENGELSING after his recent return to Europe. SCHMIDT had a long discussion with ENGELSING, the contents of which were relayed by SCHMIDT to his colleague [redacted] who in turn passed the information along to [redacted] for our consumption.

2. ENGELSING returned to Konstanz from the US some time during October 1948. (Before leaving Europe in November or December of 1947, he had told [redacted] that he was going to keep his law offices in Konstanz functioning so that if he ever came back he would still have his business.) He immediately took up his old law practice again and appeared to be considering his return to Europe as at least semi-permanent. He had little to say about his stay with his wife and children in California but gave the impression that it had been satisfactory. He told SCHMIDT that he had been questioned while in the US about his connections during the war with the Rote Kapelle group.

3. -ENGELSING, in speaking of his present political activities in Konstanz, told SCHMIDT that a wealthy manufacturer in Radolfzell had been enlisting ENGELSING's support [redacted] attempting to get the leading Communist figure of Konstanz, Rudi GOGUEL, to come over to the democratic side and to cooperate with the French police commissar, Léon HILD.

(Comment: [redacted] authorities, as well as ourselves, regard this as a very questionable story. GOGUEL, who was recently removed from the French-sponsored all-party newspaper, Südkurier, has because of this become a more rabid figure than ever and is now being played up as the Communist martyr of the French Zone. HILD, former Sureté Commissar for Konstanz, was long suspected of acting where possible in favor of the Communists and had as a secretary a known Communist, WEBER, fnu, who was one of DEGLIAME's protégés. WEBER is still working for the Sureté in Konstanz. HILD has since been moved to Freiburg im Breisgau where he has the job of Chief of the Sureté for the whole South Baden sector. HILD's place in Konstanz has been taken by FAURY, fnu, whom INAVIRION sources think to be a rightist, along with the new Governor of Konstanz, NOEL. HILD had been the man chiefly responsible for ENGELSING's rehabilitation as a lawyer free to practice under French protection.

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4. ENGELSING admitted to SCHMIDT that he had taken up contact again with Hans KUKOWITSCH, Communist chief in Lindau and Spanish Civil War veteran. KUKOWITSCH is doubly suspect to Swiss police because of his contacts with the AMERICAN LLOYD complex, which the Swiss at present are asking us to investigate (MSZA-117). ENGELSING told SCHMIDT that he had learned from KUKOWITSCH that a woman known as Frau MARIA was being used as a courier between Lindau and Berlin. This Frau MARIA is thought by [ ] to be identical with a Frau Dr. Marie GUNTHER, nee UFER, who is the daughter of a baker in Berlin-Neukölln, and is married to a doctor in Berlin. GUNTHER spends half her time in Berlin and half her time with KUKOWITSCH in Lindau.

5. [ ] who had previously attempted through SCHMIDT to get all possible Rote Kapelle information out of ENGELSING in the attempt to clarify the connections between Rote Kapelle and the Rote Drei, is extremely anxious now to establish the real reasons for ENGELSING's return to the still uncomfortable environment of Konstanz after he had been united with his wife and children in circumstances of some affluence in California. [ ] has been asked by [ ] and by us to investigate this matter in Konstanz.

Dist: Wash (2)  
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