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EGNW-4122

Name

Frank B. FRUENGEL

Born Degree 7 May 1916 in Graudenz Or. Ing.

Position

Director, Impulsphysik;

Frank Fruengel, GmbH. Hamburg-Rissen

(since 1950) Visited US in 1958 and October 1960

Travels Residences

Pre 45 in Danzig

Post 50 in Hamburg

Specialties:

Physicist specializing in laser research, high speed photography, impulse (high energy, short intensity) physics and stroboscopes.

- 3. Other Source Material: Subject is listed in the Kuerschner of 1954 and 1961, but not in Wer is Wer or Leitende Maenner. A Berlin Document Check was made in 1957 of which more below (see attachment D).
- 4. The BDC material in WOMCRU's dossier provides additional biographic data. He was married on 16 March 1940 to Ursula ZIELKE born 9 September 1922 in Danzig. It also provided information on his prewar activity. FRUENGEL became a member of the NSDAP in 1938. He joined the SS in 1933 and in 1940 had risen in rank to Untersturmfuehrer (Lieutenant). Concerning his SS duties, he states in his Lebenslauf (dated ca 1942), that in the fall of 1935 he was assigned to the SD-Abschnitt Danzig of the RFSS (Reichsfuehrer-SS). "In connection with my duties in the SD, I worked until the war on technical devices including equipment for the former Central Department IV/3 (Gestapo) of the SD Hauptamt and on the formation of certain special units." He concluded his Lebenslauf with the statement: "I plan to continue work on wartime developments and after the war rejoin the SD." After the war, however, he gave this version of his attitude to the Nazi regime: "He chose to become the only student of his physics professor at a time when that professor was boycotted and ostracized by the National Socialists."
- 5. From the WCECRU/BR dossier, it appears that FRUENGEL was relatively inactive between 1945 and 1949. In 1950, he organized his own laboratory. In the fifties he offered numerous developments (especially stroboscopes or spark-flash devices) to various US military services. He appears to have stimulated interest with casual references to simultaneous negotiations with French or Canadian military authorities. Thus, for example, in 1956 he demonstrated to officers of the Naval Scientific and Technical Unit in Frankfurt a communication system for the transmission of high energy electromagnetic radiation pulses and signals of extremely short duration which could have various military applications. The land were Dr. Gene KOVACH and Dr. Perry DAVIDSON. The demonstration was a total failure. There appears no question, however, that during this period, FRUENGEL was exceedingly active technically and acquired a long string of patents. He attended numerous International Conferences on High Speed Photography: 1854 in Paris: 1955 in Delft: 1956 in London: Speed Photography: 1954 in Paris; 1955 in Delft; 1956 in London;

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1958 in Duesseldorf; 1960 in Washington and 1963 again in Paris. The instruments he designed, developed, and built involved HF communication equipment and stroboscopes to which he added controlled high-frequency laser flashes during the sixties. At the present one of his in objectives seems to be to buy laser heads for resale in Switzerland. Several Americans who met with him and later were debriefed by a former MODEAR outpenant, praised his technical ability. To an American who visited his facility in Hamburg-Rissen in 1963, he claimed to have a staff of seventy. The American, however, saw only six to ten men in a small research section of the building; two of these worked on lasers.

- 6. It seems that by the end of the fifties he switched his sale campaign from the US military to private US firms; and evidently with considerably more success than he had encountered when dealing with the US military. By 1964 he claimed to either own, participate in, or represent a large number of firms in the field of lasers and masers (see attachment E). At the same time, however, he began to import equipment which appeared on the Embargo list. In 1959, the importation of high speed cameras by a Vaduz, Lichtenstein company a deal in which FRUENGEL was involved in a then-undefined manner was prohibited by State on grounds that the cameras were probably meant for diversion to the Soviet Bloc (attachment F). Afterwards, FRUENCEL was given import licenses but with obvious reluctance and always with the special proviso that repeated checks be made by US consular officers on the final disposition of the strategic material, so as to counter any possible attempts at diversion. In March 1964, FRUENGEL strongly protested these long delays in obtaining import licenses for strategic goods and in a letter to the Consulate General in Hamburg suggested that competing US firms might have succeeded in having him placed on a blacklist. The Consulate forwarded the letter with a request that the Department not delay future export licenses unless there was proof-positive of malpractice (attachment G). In this regard it should be noted that in addition to the Vaduz incident of 1959, there were at least two more occasions when FRUENGEL was in some way connected with diversion cases. In 1961, a large shipment of semiconductors was ordered by Leopold MEYER, who claimed these were for resale to Offried KOENIG and Frank FRUENGEL. In 1962, Impulstechnik, Zurich, which FRUENGEL had once listed as a substidiary, was suspected of East-West trade. Dr. FRUENGEL swivel-hipped out of this by stating that while he was a director of Impulstechnik, Zurich, he only owned 1 percent of the firm and that this entitled him merely to view the acco
- 7. Concerning FRUENGEL's contacts with the Ministry of Defense, the MCDORU dossier has very little information. Around 1960, he appeared to have offered an improvement in the tracking system of the Cobra in form of an active and modulated pulse source for use in the IR error determination stage. To what extent his contacts to the Ministry are any

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better than that of other specialized firms in the fields of IR, laser or maser, is difficult to answer. Possibly Professor Walter HEIMANN, Wiesbaden, known to can help answer this question. HEIMANN may also be able to help resolve the question of how much of FRUENGEL is salesman, charlatan, Schieber or scientist.

8. We have also traced Subject under his alleged alias PRUENGEL. The results were negative. By virtue of his rank and connection with the SD, FRUENGEL fell into the postwar Automatic Arrest category. Possibly this, and not fear of the Soviets, caused him to change his name between 1945 and 1949. It may also explain the relative inactivity of FRUENGEL between 1945 and 1949.

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