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15 January 1971

TO: Source and Data Registry Branch
Washington Field Activities Support Center
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

FROM: []

SUBJECT: FRUENGEL, Frank B. (073087 AF)
aka: FRUNGEL, Frank B.

1. Reference is made to your registration request dated 18 December 1970 for information concerning Subject.

2. In a report dated 20 November 1950, Subject stated that before World War II he was a citizen of Danzig, Poland. He supplied the following information on his career dating from 1935 to 1950:

- a. 1935-1939 Subject attended the Technische Hochschule in Danzig where he studied technical physics under Professor KOSSEL and received his degree in engineering.
- b. 1939-1945 Subject was the owner and director of GERAETEENTWICKLUNG DANZIG G.m.b.H.
- c. 1944 Subject received his doctorate in engineering for his work in the spectral discharge of sparks.
- d. 1945-1947 Subject worked in electromedicine as director of SCILLO (Hamburg, Germany).
- e. 1948-1950 Subject was the owner and director of the independent laboratory, Physikalisch-Technisches Laboratorium, G.m.b.H., Hamburg-Rissen, Suelldorfer Landstrasse 400, which constructed stroboscopes and ultra-sound equipment.

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3. In a report dated 26 February 1957 Subject stated that his father was living in an old people's home in Dresden, East Germany, where he had a room for the rest of his life and was not bothered by

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the East Germans or the Russians. He came at irregular intervals to visit Subject in Hamburg, but had to return within a month or lose his room. Subject's brother, Woldemar, spent all his time in his laboratory in Leipzig, East Germany, where he devoted his research to the problems of the human heart beat. The brother's laboratory was completely equipped by the East German government with all the latest and best quality apparatus at substantial cost to the German Democratic Republic (DDR). The brother received a fixed salary of 2400 East German Marks per month and social benefits, such as a new East German car at low cost (obtainable only with State approval), low cost food and housing. The brother, with Subject's assistance, had attempted to locate employment in his specialized field, research in the human heart, in West Germany, but was unable to find a position in any West German laboratory or university that would equal the standard of living and working conditions which he enjoyed in Leipzig.

4. According to a report dated 29 January 1965, Subject had presumably fled Danzig towards the end of World War II when the city was occupied by Soviet troops. According to Subject, he assumed the name "PRUENGEL" after his escape to West Germany for fear of reprisal by the Soviets. How long he used this name is not known. Subject was reportedly a scientist of considerable renown and his personal character and professional ability were said to be above question. Subject states that he had numerous business connections in the United States and traveled there frequently.

5. According to a Berlin Document Center report dated 16 February 1965, Subject said he was married on 16 March 1940 to Ursula ZIELKE, born 9 September 1922, in Danzig. He became a member of the German Nazi Party (NSDAP) in 1938, joined the Schutz Staffel (SS) in 1933 and in 1940 had risen in rank to Lieutenant. Concerning his SS duties, he stated in his Lebenslauf (dated circa 1942) that in the fall of 1935 he was assigned to the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) Section, Danzig of the Reichsfuehrer - SS (RFSS). "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 head office 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 the following version of his attitude toward the Nazi regime; he had chosen to become the only student of his physics professor at a time when the professor was boycotted by the National Socialists. By virtue of his rank and connection with the SD, Subject fell into the post-War Automatic Arrest category.

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(Comment: Possibly this, and not fear of the Soviets, caused him to change his name between 1945 and 1949. It may also explain Subject's relative inactivity between 1945 and 1949.) In the 1950's, Subject offered numerous developments (especially stroboscopes or spark-flash devices) to various United States military services. In 1956 he demonstrated to officers of the Naval Scientific and Technical Unit in Frankfurt, Germany, 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 demonstration was a total failure. However, during this period, Subject was exceedingly active technically and acquired numerous patents. He attended several International Conferences on High Speed Photography: 1954 in Paris, France; 1955 in Delft, Netherlands; 1956 in London, England; 1958 in Dusseldorf, West Germany; 1960 in Washington, D. C., and 1963 again in Paris. Several Americans who met with Subject praised his technical ability. By the end of the fifties he switched his sale campaign from the U.S. military to U.S. firms. By 1964 he claimed to either own, participate in, or represent, a large number of firms in the field of lasers and masers. At the same time, he began to import equipment which appeared on the U.S. Embargo List. In 1959 the importation of high speed cameras by a Vaduz, Lichtenstein, company (a deal in which Subject was involved in a then undefined manner) was prohibited by the State Department on grounds that the cameras were probably meant for diversion to the Soviet Bloc. Afterwards, Subject was given import licenses but with obvious reluctance and always with the special proviso that repeated checks be made by the U.S. consular officers on the final disposition of the strategic material so as to counter any possible attempts at diversion. In March 1964 Subject strongly protested the long delays in obtaining import licenses, suggesting that competing U.S. firms might have succeeded in placing him on a blacklist. In addition to the Vaduz incident in 1959 there were at least two more occasions when Subject was, in some way, connected with diversion cases. In 1961, a large shipment of semi-conductors was ordered by Leopold MEYER who claimed that they were for resale to Otfried KOENIG and Frank FRUENGEL. In 1962, Impulstechnik, Zurich, which Subject once listed as a subsidiary, was suspected of East-West trade. Subject states that, while he was a director of Impulstechnik, he owned only one percent of the firm which entitled him merely to view the accounts once a year. (Comment: The Vaduz Company, which was believed to have been organized in 1959 for the purpose of diversion, was a subsidiary of Impulstechnik, Zurich).

6. In 1951 and 1952 an officer of this Agency was in contact with Subject regarding his work on several devices of possible military value and as an intermediary in negotiations for the United States Navy's purchase of several of Subject's torpedo exploders for testing. The Agency officer acted in a service capacity only and after negotiations were completed he introduced Subject to representatives of the U. S. Navy who were to work with Subject on the construction, delivery and testing of the devices.

7. Enclosed for your retention is a copy of a commercial credit report dated 18 January 1965 and a list of firms and organizations represented by Subject's firm in West Germany.

8. [] has no record of a current operational interest in Subject.

ISRM 34,342

Encl. 1 attachment as stated above

RID/CE: JKS/JB/cb
BASED ON: []
MGK-A-24319
20 November 1950
EGFA-15024
26 February 1957
EGNW-4122
16 February 1965
MGQ-A
15 February 1952
EGNA-28776
29 January 1965

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