

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

110
25
35.0
25.35

ESBA-253
ESBA-253

Air

Chief, EE

6 November 52

Chief of Mission,

240 GEHLEN

Operational

Interview with UTILITY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

1. UTILITY called me up during the morning of 4 November to announce his presence [] . We met at my apartment for about an hour that same afternoon.

2. His conversation was restricted exclusively to the turbulent political currents immediately affecting his organization. His estimate of the forces working against him may be summarized as follows:

(a) The British, who, he feels, are determined to see the organization confined within an area of purely military intelligence.

(b) The Soviets, who are determined to see the organization as weak as possible.

(c) Certain French elements whose opposition is explicable within the general framework of French anxiety about a rearmad Germany.

3. Within this outline, the currents and cross currents are turbulent indeed. A good deal of UTILITY's discourse covered familiar ground and familiar names, but some new names and items turned up--new, at least, to me. I pass them along on the chance that they may be new to others. The most orderly process would seem to be to proceed according to names:

(a) CAPOTE: He is still a factor. [] and UPTHRUST have been confronted by the evidence of his service for foreign intelligence agencies. They seem to have been neither greatly moved nor entirely convinced. Which brings us to:

(b) [] UTILITY explains his persistent loyalty to CAPOTE by recent information according to which [] served, toward the end of the war, with the Brandenburg Division under CAPOTE. The latter thus continues to be a thorn in the ZIPPER side, and UTILITY continues to express his conviction that

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 38
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2005

Distribution:
Wash (3)
Fran (1)
Full (1)
Files (1)

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

240 Gehlen

CAPOTE works for the Soviets, or at least has connections to them. UTILITY continues, however, to express a high opinion of [] The same cannot be said, however, with regard to--

(c) Franz Josef STRAUS, Secretary-General of the CSU, who has frequently been reported as a contender for []'s job and whom UTILITY identifies with what he always calls "Der Kreis um Josef Mueller." As you know, UTILITY has always regarded MUELLER as one of the instruments of Soviet influence upon Western German politics. STRAUS has attempted on several occasions to see UTILITY, but the latter, acting on warnings from BONN, has politely declined. Which brings us to--

(d) Dr. Otto JOHN. Not much new here, except that relations between the two men continue to be outwardly cordial. They reassure each other from time to time of their determination to respect and support the other's prerogatives. UTILITY passed on an unconfirmed report from an allegedly reliable source, according to which, JOHN, in his cups, once confided to the source that he had belonged to the "Special Service" of the British Foreign Office. A similar distinction, according to UTILITY, is enjoyed by HEINE of the SPD. JOHN, by the way, has now been identified as a co-author of the article by Sexton Delmar.

(e) General GERSDORFF. The name was mentioned by me and produced the following story. Gersdorff recently got in touch with UTILITY on two counts: (1) to ask for his support in obtaining an IC position with the German contingents; (2) to tell him that he had been offered a job with []'s office and ask his approval of acceptance, which, as UTILITY remarked, was certainly unnecessary. UTILITY responded by asking GERSDORFF to Munich, an invitation which GERSDORFF accepted. UTILITY initiated him into the lesser mysteries of ZIPFER and was quite pleased with what he had done. It later turned out that GERSDORFF is in line to succeed CAPOTE if and when the latter should go. I am not sure of all the details of this chapter and would suggest that [] sound UTILITY out on GERSDORFF at some appropriate time. Both UTILITY and NECKER have always had a good opinion of him. I didn't tell UTILITY that [], who knew nothing of ZIPFER or my connection with it, once told me about it in high indignation and with great inaccuracy, basing his remarks on what GERSDORFF had once told him at the race track in Cologne. I have always suspected that GERSDORFF's orientation came from JOHN.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

[]
former Viennese 'SECRET
Austrian SECURITY INFORMATION
under USFit G-2 COPY
I good for [] I + []
CLEAR COPY agent Düsseldorf
can't identify
German mission
business

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

ESBA-253

(f) Georges BLON. UTILIFY called my attention to this character, who is the Berlin correspondent of the Journal de Geneve. He has a long intelligence record, going back to World War I, and has allegedly worked at one time or another for the British, the French, the Russians and probably the Swiss. UTILIFY, who had just been briefed by [] believes that his present masters are the British and/or possibly the Russians, and that he may have had a hand in recent anti-ZIPPER items which have been turning up in the French press.

4. That about covers it. I delivered UTILIFY safe and sound at the doorstep of his French friend. From there he was to proceed to Liechtenstein to visit []

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION