

UNCLASSIFIED

DOCUMENT ID: 25131666
INQNO: DOC8D 00450152
DOCNO: TEL 000802 88
PRODUCER: HAMBURG
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19880331
TOR: 134911
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 198803311255
MHFNO: 88 8410543
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER
PP RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS5000
PP RUEHC
DE RUFHAM #0802/01 0911330
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 311255Z MAR 88
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4358
BT

CONTROLS
UNCLAS HAMBURG 0802

FOR CA/VO/L/C FRED SMITH

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: CVIS, PGOV, PEPR, GE (MEINE, AUGUST CHRISTIAN HEINRICH)
SUBJ: POSSIBLE 212(A) (33) INELIGIBILITY

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} State

REF: (A) HAMBURG 0514, (B) USBERLIN 00801 AND (C) SEVERAL SMITH/FINNEGAN TELECONS

1. CONOFF INTERVIEWED AUGUST MEINE ON MARCH 23, 1988. PER REFTLECONS (C) CONOFF FOCUSED ON THE NATURE, PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE MANNSCHAFTHAESER AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE SS THOUGH OTHER ASPECTS OF MEINE'S ACTIVITIES WERE REVIEWED. THE INTERVIEW SERVED TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL DETAIL ON THE WORKINGS OF THE MANNSCHAFTHAESER AS WELL AS INSIGHT INTO A SPECIFIC SET OF ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY SELECTED MANNSCHAFTHAESER MEMBERS. CONOFF DID NOT, HOWEVER, CONCENTRATE ON MEINE'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE "ENDLOESUNG," CONCENTRATION CAMPS OR OTHER RELATED MATTERS IN VIEW OF THE VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO BOTH CONOFF AND DEPTOFF BY THE BDC.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

2. MEINE STATED THAT LATE IN THE 1920'S OR EARLY IN THE 1930'S HE JOINED THE WALTER FLECK FAHRTFINDERS, A QUASI-NATIONALISTIC ORGANIZATION WITH A FOCUS ON CAMPING,

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

HIKING AND OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. THIS WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE HITLER JUGEND (HJ) IN 1933 AND MEINE REMAINED ACTIVE IN THE HJ UNTIL 1936. CONOFF ATTEMPTED TO FOCUS ON MEINE'S ACTIVITIES WHILE IN THE HJ'S "PRESSE AND PROPAGANDA" DIVISION, BUT MEINE INDICATED THAT HE COULD ONLY REMEMBER WRITING A FEW ARTICLES AND OFFERED LITTLE ELSE.

3. IN 1934 MEINE ATTENDED A THREE MONTH COURSE AT THE BERLIN HOCHSCHULE FUER POLITIK ARRANGED THROUGH THE HITLER JUGEND. APPARENTLY, THIS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIM BECAUSE HE CHANGED HIS CAREER GOALS FROM SCIENCE TO LAW IN ORDER TO EVENTUALLY BECOME ACTIVE IN POLITICS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AT THE END OF 1934 HE EARNED HIS ABITUR (WITH EXCELLENT MARKS) AND WENT ON TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN.

4. SOMETIME DURING 1935 WHILE AT BERLIN HE MET A FELLOW STUDENT BY THE NAME OF KURT NEUMANN WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE BERLIN MANNSCHAFTSHAUS. MEINE AND NEUMANN STRUCK UP A FRIENDSHIP WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO MEINE BEING INTRODUCED TO THE BERLIN MANNSCHAFTSHAUS, ITS MEMBERS, IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES. AFTER SEVERAL VISITS MEINE BECAME QUITE INTERESTED IN JOINING AND WENT THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO DO SO. THIS INVOLVED HAVING NEUMANN RECOMMEND HIM TO HIGHER SS AUTHORITIES; UNDERGOING A BACKGROUND CHECK; BEING OFFICIALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE ALLGEMEINE SS; AND THEN BEING ASSIGNED TO THE BERLIN MANNSCHAFTSHAUS. THIS PROCESS WAS THE SAME FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AND, CONOFF BELIEVES, WAS HANDLED THROUGH THE SS RACE AND SETTLEMENT OFFICE THOUGH THE ACTUAL INVITATION CAME FROM THE PERSONAL STAFF OF THE REICHSFUEHRER SS. IN JANUARY 1936 HE WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE SS AND ASSIGNED TO THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUS IN BERLIN. IN 1938 HE BECAME HEAD OF THAT MANNSCHAFTSHAUS.

5. THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER SYSTEM :

5A. MEINE PROVIDED A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER SYSTEM. HE INDICATED THAT STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN HAD TO HAVE A CONNECTION WITH OR BE INVOLVED IN THE SS SINCE THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER COMPRISED A SEPARATE SS DIVISION WITHIN THE ALLGEMEINE SS. KURT ELLERSIEK WAS THE DIVISION'S COMMANDING OFFICER AND HE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO KARL WOLFF ON HIMMLER'S STAFF. THE RACE AND SETTLEMENT OFFICE HAD SOME ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE PROGRAM BUT MEINE DID NOT COVER THIS. MEINE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE 300-400 MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER MEMBERS AT ANY ONE TIME THROUGHOUT GERMANY DURING THE PRE-WAR YEARS OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 100 WERE IN BERLIN.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 HAMBURG 0802

5B. THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER PROGRAM FUNCTIONED AS AN SS FRATERNITY SYSTEM THOUGH ITS CLEAR GOAL, ACCORDING TO MEINE, WAS TO CREATE AND FORGE AN ELITE WITHIN THE ELITE. THOSE CHOSEN FOR MEMBERSHIP HAD TO BE PHYSICALLY SOUND, RACIALLY CORRECT (THIS IS CONOFF'S INTERPRETATION OF MEINE'S DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP) AND EXCELLENT STUDENTS WITH CLEAR LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. IN ADDITION THEY HAD TO MAINTAIN A "NORMAL"

UNCLASSIFIED

(MEINE'S WORD) RELATIONSHIP WITH WOMEN. MEMBERSHIP ALSO CONFERRED A PRIVILEGED STATUS BECAUSE THE MEMBERS WERE EXCUSED FROM THE VARIOUS MEETING, STUDY AND ACTIVITY REQUIRMENTS WHICH SS OFFICIALS NORMALLY HAD TO MEET.

5C. CONOFF FOCUSSED QUESTIONS ON WHAT MEINE KNEW OF ANY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE MANNSCHAFTHAESER WERE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED. MEINE PROCEEDED THEN TO DESCRIBE ELLERSIEK'S EFFORTS IN EARLY 1940 TO FIND SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE MANNSCHAFTHAESER TO DO. THESE EFFORTS EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN A CLANDESTINE ESPIONAGE OPERATION INVOLVING SOME OF THE BEST OF THE MANNSCHAFTHAESER MEMBERS. MEINE SAID THAT HE AND 20 - 25 MEN WERE SELECTED FOR A SPECIAL TWO OR THREE WEEK ESPIONAGE TRAINING COURSE AFTER WHICH THEY WERE ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO THE STAFF OF THE REICHSFUEHRER SS AS THE "SONDERKOMMANDO OF THE REICHSFUEHRER SS." THE GROUP WAS SENT TO THE BALKAN COUNTRIES UNDER DIPLOMATIC "COVER" IN GERMAN EMBASSIES, CONSULATES OR LEGATIONS. THE FOCUS OF THE OPERATION WAS TO LEARN WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE BALKANS THAT WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

5D. MEINE WAS SENT TO THE GERMAN CONSULATE AT VARNA, BULGARIA. HIS PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS THE INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIANS IN BULGARIA AND HE REPORTED HIS FINDINGS THROUGH THE CONSULATE'S COMMUNICATION CHANNELS. MEINE INDICATED THAT HE DEVELOPED NUMEROUS CONTACTS BUT WAS ALWAYS HAMPERED BECAUSE HE COULD NOT SPEAK BULGARIAN (A PROBLEM HE SAID THAT PLAGUED THE PROGRAM BECAUSE THOSE SENT ELSEWHERE COULD NOT SPEAK THE LANGUAGES OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY WERE ASSIGNED). MEINE SAID, THOUGH, THAT THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF TWO GERMAN SPEAKING BULGARIANS, A WELL KNOWN VARNA FEMALE DENTIST AND A LOCAL POLICE CHIEF, HE WAS INTRODUCED TO MANY BULGARIANS. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT HIS COVER WORE THIN QUITE QUICKLY CAUSING HIM TO BE LESS SUCCESSFUL THAN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN. AS A RESULT HE ASKED IN LATE 1940 TO BE RETURNED TO THE REICHSFUEHRER SS STAFF HEADQUARTERS IN BERLIN AND THIS WAS GRANTED. MEINE BELIEVED THAT HIS FELLOW AGENTS HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCES. UPON CLOSE QUESTIONING TO LEARN THE NAMES OF OTHER COLLEAGUES MEINE COULD RECALL ONLY THAT OF RUDOLF YEEP WHO SERVED IN RUMANIA.

5E. MEINE ADDED THAT DURING THE YEARS 1942-44 ELLERSIEK WANTED TO PROMULGATE A "GERMAN SETTLEMENT IN RUSSIA PROGRAM." HOWEVER, MEINE BELIEVES THAT THIS NEVER GOT VERY FAR AND SAID THAT HE KNOWS VERY LITTLE ABOUT IT.

5F. MEINE ALSO INDICATED THAT ELLERSIEK EVENTUALLY LEFT THE MANNSCHAFTHAESER PROGRAM. HE WAS NOT QUITE CERTAIN WHAT ELLERSIEK SUBSEQUENTLY DID, BUT IT MAY HAVE HAD SOME RELATIONSHIP TO A "VOLKSTURM" PROGRAM. MEINE ALSO BELIEVES THAT ELLERSIEK MAY HAVE HAD SOME RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ABWEHR, BUT HE HAS NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THIS.

6. IN DECEMBER 1939 MEINE BECAME A SOLDIER IN THE WEHRMACHT. HIS UNIT WAS INFANTRIE I-29 AND HE WAS STATIONED NEAR

UNCLASSIFIED

LAUSCHITZ, POLAND. IN FEBRUARY 1940 HE WAS RELEASED FROM THE WEHRMACHT AND SENT DIRECTLY TO THE STAFF OF THE REICHSFUEHRER SS/CHEF DER DEUTSCHEN POLIZEI. HE WAS DETAILED TO THE SS "ADOLF HITLER" STANDARTE. FROM MARCH 1940 TO THE END OF 1940 HE WAS IN BULGARIA AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 5D ABOVE. IN EARLY 1941 HE WAS ASSIGNED AS AN AIDE TO DR. BRANDT (HIMMLER'S DEPUTY) AND REPRESENTED BRANDT WHEN HE WAS AWAY. MEINE SAID THAT HE SERVED AS AN ADVISOR/EXPERT ASSISTANT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADJUTANCY MATTERS.

7. IN JUNE/JULY 1940 HE SAID THAT HE ASKED FOR ACTIVE COMBAT DUTY. INITIALLY HIMMLER WOULD NOT GIVE HIM PERMISSION TO LEAVE, BUT MEINE PERSISTED AND HIMMLER EVENTUALLY RELENTED. HE WAS RELEASED IN JULY 1941 AND JOINED THE SS DIVISION "DAS REICH." HE WAS FIRST ASSIGNED TO THE DIVISION'S STAFF, BUT HE DID NOT WANT THIS AND EVENTUALLY GOT TO THE FRONT. ON AUGUST 14, 1941, AFTER ONLY TWO WEEKS ON THE FRONT, HE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY A SHARPSHOOTER NEAR YELNYA, RUSSIA (APPROXIMATELY 200 KM SOUTH OF MOSCOW). BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF GAS GANGRENE HE WAS QUICKLY SENT TO A HOSPITAL IN BERLIN. MEINE INDICATED THAT HE RECEIVED SUCH QUICK TREATMENT AND EVACUATION BECAUSE HE WAS RECOGNIZED BY A FIELD DOCTOR WHO HAD SEEN HIM AT THE REICHSCHANCELLERY IN BERLIN.
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 HAMBURG 0802

8. AFTER RECUPERATING IN BERLIN HE RETURNED TO THE STAFF OF THE REICHSFUEHRER SS AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR. HE SAID THAT HE SERVED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR, DID NOTHING UNTOWARD AND HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE "ENDLOESUNG" OR OTHER ATROCITIES. HE SAID THAT HIMMLER SHIELDED HIM FROM SUCH THINGS BECAUSE OF HIS WIFE'S BACKGROUND AND SITUATION. MEINE SAID THAT HIS WIFE CAME FROM A LONG-STANDING, WELL KNOWN AND VERY INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC FAMILY IN WESTPHALIA WHICH INTRIGUED HIMMLER AND RESULTED IN HIS PURPOSEFUL EFFORTS TO SHIELD HIM FROM ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED REPUGNANT OR CRIMINAL. MEINE BELIEVES THAT HIMMLER'S ACTIONS SAVED HIM FROM POSSIBLE SENTENCING AT NUERNBERG. IN ADDITION MEINE WAS MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUNNING OF THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUESER DURING THE LATTER YEARS OF THE WAR. MEINE SAID THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN MUCH BECAUSE THERE WAS LITTLE TO DO SINCE THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUESER RAN THEMSELVES AND PROGRESSIVELY LESS ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THEM IN THE LATER YEARS OF THE WAR.

9. ON MAY 08, 1945 MEINE SURRENDERED TO THE ALLIES IN FLENSBURG. APPARENTLY THE RESIDUAL STAFF OF THE REICHSFUEHRER SS HAD MOVED TO SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN THOUGH CONOFF DOES NOT BELIEVE MEINE WAS WITH THE STAFF WHEN IT SURRENDERED. HE SPENT INITIALLY THREE WEEKS IN CUSTODY AND WAS APPARENTLY THOROUGHLY INTERROGATED. HE WAS THEN INTERNED UNTIL MAY 1948 IN A BRITISH INTERNMENT CAMP. IN 1948 MEINE WAS SENTENCED BY A SPECIAL BRITISH MILITARY COURT IN BIELEFELD TO TWO YEARS AND NINE MONTHS OF PRISON FOR PARTICIPATION IN AND INVOLVEMENT WITH A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION - THE SS. THE TRIAL AND SENTENCING TOOK PLACE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNDER BRITISH MILITARY ORDER 65. HOWEVER, THE JUDGE RULED THAT THE THREE YEARS THAT HE HAD ALREADY SERVED IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP WERE TO BE COUNTED AGAINST THE SENTENCE SO HE WAS ALLOWED TO GO HOME.

10. AFTER THE WAR MEINE SAID HE WAS A WITNESS AT THE FIRST NUERNBERG TRIALS AND A PARTICIPANT IN THE SECOND AND THIRD SETS OF THOSE TRIALS. IN ADDITION HE WAS ALSO INVOLVED WITH THE KARL WOLFF "JUDENFRAGE" TRIAL IN MUENICH. MEINE DID NOT PROVIDE MUCH DETAIL ON THESE MATTERS BECAUSE HE SAID THE RECORDS WERE AVAILABLE FOR ANYBODY TO REVIEW.
WHITLOCK

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 5