

Contact Report: [] 19 Feb 53

During a contact this morning [] reported the following:

On the day on which the newspapers carried the Kirwes story he had ~~XXXXXXXX~~ wondered how it was possible that a man like Kirwes would lend himself to such activities. He had known K on and off for several years, and did not consider him the type. Furthermore, as reported, Kirwes last year had bragged to [] "I am safe. Nothing can happen to me, since I am covered on both sides". [] also could not believe that someone who was ~~the~~ the guiding genius on an operation like 'Drehscheibe' would be used for a kidnaping job. After thinking about it for a few hours he decided to find out ~~for~~ himself ^{what} ~~would~~ is behind it. He went to U-Bahnhof Schoenhauser Allee, the first one inside the East Sector on that line. He called Kirwes at his house but K was not in. This was about 1800 hours ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ^{Tuesday, 17} ~~Monday, 16~~ Feb. After two additional calls within a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, he finally got hold of K and arranged to meet him on the street at the Schnhs. Allee Station. Kirwes showed up a few minutes later and they talked for about 15 minutes. C asked him what he had to say about the newspaper story (C had it with him, but K had it also). C states that K was very nervous, scared to death and almost unable to talk coherently. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ K ^{swore} ~~swore~~ that he had nothing

to do with the kidnaping, but that his main worry was the fact that the papers had claimed that he had turned over to the West documents concerning illegal East-West Trade plans. This, K claimed would ruin him with Karlshorst. He had no worries about the allegation that he had kidnaped Hoehner, since Karlshorst obviously would know who actually had done it. But he doubted that he would be able to talk himself out of the documents accusation. He went on to say that he would not wait until they came to arrest him but that ~~his~~ he would go the same night to Karlshorst with a copy of the newspaper and would see what happens.

C is convinced that K was telling the truth. I made it quite plain to C, in very frank language, that his actions in going over there without clearing it with us, certainly put him in a doubtful position in our minds. It is extremely strange that he would go over to contact a man known to him and us to be an MVD agent. He countered that he was very surprised that we could, after all this time have any doubts about his loyalty, and furthermore he felt sure that, had he called me and asked me, I would not have permitted him to go.

I was under the impression that, at the time of his recruitment by Philbin, he had been carried. I therefore asked him if he remembered having been put on a machine, which he declined. It turned out that he had never
He added: "They would tell you about it now?"

been carried. After a 'slight' explanation of what is involved [] readily agreed to undergo a carriage test, if we really felt it necessary.

COMMENTS: I believe that [] is telling the truth and did this partly out of sheer nosiness and also to ingratiate himself with us, since he was put on a very reduced salary last December (DM-50.- per month).

RECOMMENDATIONS: That we consider possibility of persuading [] to recontact KIRWES AND ~~offer him~~^{him} bring over to West.(after due discussions with NICOG and Police authorities).

BMA