

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

EGLA-8382

EGLA 8302

31 Mar 54

31 MAR 54

DECLASSIFIED

BY DOI 70-17

Chief of Base, Berlin
(Attn: [])

Chief of Base, Pullach
Operational

Elfriede PAPPROTTA Case

INFO: CCM

1. We all agree that the ZIPPER act of recruiting agents in the OCIS was not a friendly act. More reprehensible still was the fact that they did not immediately extract the PAPPROTTA item from the Frau HOEHER report and hand carry it to us with a large "Sehr Dringend" on it. Instead, they left it up to us to pick it up when we pored through the voluminous ZIPPER interrogation of Frau HOEHER. All of this has been taken up personally with UTILITY in the most critical terms. Against this background we set about to take some action in co-operation with BOB, obviously an interested party in view of the sensitivity of the OCIS, to correct the situation. [] discussed the case first with [] in Berlin 29 January.

2. As I understand it, an agreement on future action was reached between [] of BOB and [] of BOB at a meeting in Berlin on 9 March 54. [] reported that [] had already independently collected sufficient derogatory information on both PAPPROTTA and HEINKE to justify discharging the former and transferring the latter. It was agreed that [] should be encouraged to take this action on the basis of his own information.

3. ZIPPER has now come to us with the report received from their agent HEINKE that on 10 March [] asked HEINKE to make Frau HOEHER available to CAINSON 30 for questioning. [] stated that he had been informed by his "American contact" that ZIPPER had custody of Frau HOEHER and that in an interrogation obtained from Frau HOEHER by ZIPPER, Frau HOEHER had distinctly stated that Wolfgang HOEHER labelled PAPPROTTA a Soviet spy. For this reason [] desired HEINKE, as a ZIPPER member, to cooperate in the matter by revealing Frau HOEHER's whereabouts.

4. In retrospect I think that probably the PAPPROTTA case has been handled wrong from the first. Perhaps it would have been better if we had made a completely official and overt matter of the whole thing, advising ZIPPER that this was necessary. The fact remains, however, that this was not the decision and that we did not inform ZIPPER that we were going to either make the entire affair a matter of official record with Public Safety in Berlin or pass it directly to the German Police in the OCIS. In any case, we would not have agreed to the information being passed via BOB's agent back to ZIPPER's agent...thus completing the circle.

3 COB
3 COB

31 Mar 54

Handwritten initials and scribbles

1099-ed

Handwritten initials

Handwritten initials

[]

SECRET

8382

-2-

BOLA 3282
11 Mar 54

5. Because ZIPPER was in such a completely indefensible position originally, we do not feel particularly embarrassed vis-a-vis ZIPPER regarding this case. However, we might as well face up to the fact that the chances of continued access to ZIPPER case dossiers, original interrogations and internal ZIPPER operational correspondence, provided routinely at the working POB/ZIPPER staff level, is inevitably reduced by incidents of this sort. We believe it equally in BOB and POB interest that we continue to have access to such material.

6. He did pass off this incident as an indiscretion on the part of Public Safety, deploring the fact that the FORNER case was mentioned to HEINRICH who is closely connected to PAPROTIA who may be a Soviet agent. ZIPPER sympathized and expressed understanding that we had found it necessary to pass the information to Public Safety.

7. Can you let us know what action plans to take. Also, we would like to receive the material on PAPROTIA and HEINRICH (part of which inspected 9 March) which I requested initially on the 29th of January.

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET