

COURIER

EGSA 8832

EGSA-8832
21 DEC. 1956

Chief of Station, Germany

21 December 1956

Chief, CLS

INFO: BOB, POB, ULS

Operational/cadery/CART/UPSWING

Wolfgang Paul HOEHER

Reference: EGSA - 73828, 1 February 1956 251-24602 - 3 copies Hoehner - 501

1. With no reference to the considerable negotiations CLS had with CIC and ULS had with G-2, USAREUR, on this case, CIC has suddenly announced that since KUBARK expressed an interest in Subject, as first indicated in reference, CIC has no objection to the transfer of Subject to KUBARK operational central.
2. If KUBARK is interested in completing this transfer CIC requests they be notified to insure proper transfer and introduction of their contact, Otto Matthias ~~KUBARK~~ to KUBARK.
3. Attached hereto is a brief on ~~AUSCHER~~'s background and his association with Subject.

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Distribution:

- 3 - COB w/attach
- 2 - BOB w/o attach
- 2 - POB w/o attach
- 2 - ULS w/o attach
- 2 - RR w/o attach

MICROFILMED
APR 22 1964
DOC. MICRO. SER.

FOR COORDINATION WITH US ARMY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

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SUBJECT: HOEHER, Wolfgang Paul (S)

Otto Matthias AUSSERMEIER was born 23 September 1921 at 28 Landshuterstrasse, VILSBIBURG. AUSSERMEIER presently resides at 19 Ziegelgraben, SCHOENHORN. He is single and his occupation is listed as a sports instructor. He attended Volksschule from 1927 to 1935 in VILSBIBURG and Sports School during 1943 at WUESDORF and AMONT. From 1946 to 1949 AUSSERMEIER was a representative of the GYA (German Youth Activities) in VILSBIBURG. From 1945 to 1950 he resided at 28 Landshuterstrasse, VILSBIBURG. From 1933 to 1945 AUSSERMEIER was a member of the HJ (Hitler Jugend). Prior to World War II he was employed as an apprentice baker in VILSBIBURG and NEUMARKT. Since 1950 AUSSERMEIER has been employed as a laborer in the Broominger Leather Factory in SCHOENHORN. He has been a member of the SRP, Kreis Stuttgart since April 1952. During May 1952 he was appointed leader of the Stuttgart/Vaihingen SRP Ortsgruppe (Suburban Group). As an SRP functionary he attends meetings of the SRP Parteileitung of Kreis Stuttgart. He is also a member of the Deutsche Reichspartei of Baden-Wuerttemberg. He has been employed by this Group since August 1951 covering political activities. In 1947 and 1948 AUSSERMEIER was utilized as a legman for this Group.

On the dates indicated, the following information was learned by this Group.

On 12 October 1955 Otto Matthias AUSSERMEIER, born 23 September 1921 in VILSBIBURG, GFR, reported the following information:

In October 1955 Source was introduced to Wolfgang HOEHER, who resides at LEIPZIG, Klingenstrasse 17, with his mother and 15-year-old son. At present HOEHER's son attends a Hochschule in LEIPZIG. HOEHER speaks of his experiences during World War II, how he had been captured in 1944 by the Russians and imprisoned at LITHEANESTADT, East Germany. HOEHER related how he had been sent to MOSCOW, USSR, in 1947 and for a period of two and one-half years received Antifa training. HOEHER related how he had worked for GAHARIS in Abwehr "F" during World War II. He claimed to have been released by the Soviets in 1950 and resettled at an undesignated city in West Germany. HOEHER's wife, first name unknown, allegedly still resides in an undesignated city in West Germany with their eight-year-old daughter and a six weeks old son. Frau HOEHER allegedly visited HOEHER in LEIPZIG during the Christmas season of 1954, at which time she conceived the six week old son. HOEHER claimed to have never seen the son and has no intention of coming to West Germany because of the

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[8 Jan 57]

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danger involved. HOEHER related that he at one time had been a member of the GEHLEN Organization in BERLIN, but had been cut off from all information and access to dossiers; therefore, he had severed connections with the GEHLEN Organization and had gone to East Germany, where he is now working for a "Zivil Abwehr" (civilian counter intelligence).

In LEIPZIG, HOEHER requested Source to attempt to obtain names of members of the GEHLEN Organization in West Germany, as well as names of former members of the Brandenburg Division who are now in the Amt fuer Verfassungsschutz (Office for the Protection of the Constitution), and members of the Political Section of the German Police.

HOEHER explained to Source that he wanted the data on the members of the GEHLEN Organization because his office in East Germany knows that there are presently 3,500 persons in the GEHLEN Organization, that it is supported by the Americans, and that the Organization is to be cut in strength to approximately 2,000 persons. HOEHER believes that of the 1,800 relieved from the GEHLEN Organization, some can be approached with the purpose of obtaining names of persons remaining in the employ of the GEHLEN Organization. HOEHER further stated that the person responsible for the GEHLEN Organization in southwestern West Germany is a (Pnu) BEHZINGER. BEHZINGER had worked for "Organization JOHN" of the West German Intelligence until 1950, at which time BEHZINGER started to work for GEHLEN. BEHZINGER is now believed residing with the widow of a former saw-mill owner in KARLSRUHE, street address unknown. (C-6)

On 23 November 1955 Otto AUSSERMEIER of this Group revealed the following information:

In November 1955 Wolfgang HOEHER related to Source that when he, HOEHER, left West BERLIN, Germany, he went to East BERLIN, taking some of the GEHLEN' Organization's files with him. He then obtained a position with a newspaper in East BERLIN. In 1953 he went to LEIPZIG where he was appointed Economic Editor/Reporter of the "National Zeitung," which position he holds at the present time, with a monthly salary of 1,400 East Marks. In his spare time HOEHER works for "Abteilung III" (Department III) of the SSD (Staatsicherheits Dienst - State Security Service), which is Intelligence. - ?
HOEHER does not receive any salary for his work with the SSD.

HOEHER stated that Intelligence in the German Democratic Republic is very advanced and they are continually learning the names of Western Intelligence agents operating in East Germany. Every day many agents of the GEHLEN Organization, the Fighting Group against Inhumanity, and the Association of Free Jurists are apprehended in the East Zone. These agents have the mission of sabotage and espionage.

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East German Intelligence has proved that the organizations which send the agents into the East are sponsored and paid by the Americans. Many such agents have requested and received asylum in the East and have turned over considerable material to East German Intelligence.

HOEHER related that a (Fau) BENZINGER, the man who was responsible for the GEMLEN Organization in KARLSRUHE, Germany, was arrested for high treason by the West German Police and is interned in the Hospital Section of the State Prison in DARMSTADT, Germany. (C-6)

On 29 February 1956 Otto AUSSERMEIER reported the following information:

AUSSERMEIER received a letter from Wolfgang HOEHER, LEIPZIG, GDR, in which HOEHER requested that AUSSERMEIER send him the address of Joachim WEHRING, who insofar as AUSSERMEIER knows, resides at MUNICH/Issanning, GFR. HOEHER had sent a letter to WEHRING at a LUEBECK, Germany, address, but the letter had been returned as the addressee was not known to the LUEBECK postal authorities. AUSSERMEIER sent a letter to HOEHER stating that he did not know WEHRING's address. (C-3)

On 20 March 1956, CIS coverage revealed the following:

Otto AUSSERMEIER was the addressee of a letter, postmarked 16 February 1956, from Wolfgang HOEHER, LEIPZIG, East Germany, a translation of which is as follows:

I have received your letter. I hope that you are once more in good health. This practically legendary winter has more or less caused trouble for all of us. It is (illegible) icy cold and snowy. The preparations (illegible) proceed according to schedule. (Illegible) respect for the organization.

I spoke to MUELLER, who told me about your letter to him. You registered yourself, DIETER and the lady we know, for the Fair. MUELLER has already answered you. The correct thing for you to do, in case more of you should come, is to obtain Fair Identification at the STUTTGART Chamber of Industry and Commerce. These identifications will serve also to allow your entry and stay in LEIPZIG. Do not worry about expenses. Everything will be taken care of for Frau S. also. MUELLER probably wrote you stupid things about this too. Travel from STUTTGART on the Fair Special Train of the Federal Railway. Travel price reductions are granted upon presentation of the Fair Identification. I have arranged, that in case our acquaintance Gottob B. wishes to discuss business with FAEHLING, he can do so. In view of the circumstances, I believe that would be best. You can depend upon me in this respect. I am not such a "loose bird" as the gentlemen in BERLIN.

Please write me at once and let me know when you are coming and who is coming with you. I think it would be nice if you arrived on Saturday, 25 February. At the beginning of the Fair, business is liveliest, later the (illegible) time. I will need your time of arrival in order to arrange the reservations for rooms. That will not be so easy because tens of thousands will visit the fair daily. I hope that your family is well. Everything else then verbally. Cordial greetings and a reunion in eight days. (F-3)

On 20 March 1956 Otto AUSSERMEIER reported the following information:

Source met SUBJECT on the evening of 26 February 1956, in LEIPZIG, East Germany. SUBJECT apologized for not having met Source upon his arrival in LEIPZIG, but explained that as a journalist covering the Fair, he was extremely busy. Source and SUBJECT were never alone, since Source was always accompanied by others who were visiting the LEIPZIG Fair and their escorts. Source gave SUBJECT a copy of Der Spiegel (The Mirror), a West German weekly news magazine. No mention was made of a future meeting prior to the German Gymnastic and Sport Festival which is to be held in LEIPZIG in early August 1956. (C-3)

On 20 March 1956, CIS coverage revealed a letter addressed to Otto AUSSERMEIER from Wolfgang HOEHER, postmarked LEIPZIG, East Germany. A translation of the letter is as follows:

Dear Otto!

I was very glad about your brief greeting. I hope that our reunion in MUNICH will be very nice.

Send me a telegram in time.

Greetings to all, and especially to your dear wife.

Most cordially,

/s/ Wolf

(F-6)

On 6 April 1956, Otto AUSSERMEIER reported the following information:

AUSSERMEIER received an Easter Greeting card from SUBJECT on 31 March 1956. The purpose of the card was to render Easter greetings to Source and family. Source had written HOEHER shortly after returning to STUTTGART from the LEIPZIG Fair, thanking HOEHER for the invitation to the Fair. (C-3)

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On 7 June 1956 Otto AUSSERMEIER reported the following information:

At approximately 0915 hours, 2 June 1956, Source was contacted at the Hotel Adria, Friedrichstrasse, East BERLIN by SUBJECT.

HOEHER told Source that he was staying at the Johanneshof (hotel) in East BERLIN. SUBJECT expressed disappointment that Source had not written him for quite some time and that Source had not informed SUBJECT that he was going to be in BERLIN. Source told HOEHER that he believed that SUBJECT was perhaps angry because of statements Source had made at the LEIPZIG Fair in February 1956, in which Source had derided the East Zone for their many unfulfilled promises to the people. SUBJECT said that he was not angry about these remarks. SUBJECT purchased a used Volkswagen and he has been traveling extensively in the East Zone. SUBJECT did not elaborate upon the reasons or places of travel. SUBJECT is suffering from a blood circulatory ailment and plans to take a six-week cure treatment in BAD ELSTER, East Germany, in the near future. SUBJECT will write Source from that location. SUBJECT asked if Source and his wife were going to attend the Herbst Ausstellung (Fall Fair) to be held in LEIPZIG in August or September 1956, to which Source answered that he was not certain whether he would be able to get time off from his work. SUBJECT promised to send Source an invitation to the Fair. SUBJECT mentioned nothing concerning his work, and did not ask Source to do anything for him. (C-3)

On 30 July 1956 Otto AUSSERMEIER reported the following information:

At 0700 hours, 7 July 1956, Otto AUSSERMEIER traveled from STUTTGART, Germany, to SCHROKLLN, East Germany, to visit relatives and to pick up his 14 year old brother-in-law who needed specialized medical care, which could only be obtained in the West Zone of Germany. Source traveled as far as LEIPZIG, East Germany, on the 7th of July, arriving there at approximately 2000 hours.

Upon arrival at LEIPZIG main railroad station, he was met by SUBJECT and driven in SUBJECT's Volkswagen to SUBJECT's apartment. During the evening SUBJECT apologized because the people in the East Zone were still shabbily dressed, that they were poorly fed, and lacked sufficient housing. SUBJECT indicated that a more concentrated effort will be made in the immediate future to better the lot of the average person in the East Zone in the above mentioned difficulties, and that perhaps within four or five years, the living standard in the East Zone would equal that of the West Zone. Politically speaking, SUBJECT had apparently adopted the change in

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the Communist outlook initiated by KHRUSCHEV and BULGANIN. He continually referred to the type of Government of East Germany as being "Socialistic." He echoed the opinion of the Communists that Germany should be completely neutral country with no army of its own and that all foreign troops should be withdrawn.

SUBJECT indicated that in addition to his duty as Economic Editor for the National Zeitung (newspaper), he is now the director for a so-called Auffangslager (Refugee Camp) at EISENHACH, East Germany. This camp is an incoming reporting and processing center for "refugees from the West." SUBJECT indicated that he personally screens the individuals reporting to this camp to see that they are politically clean. After the individuals are screened, they are then placed in East German industry.

SUBJECT plans to attend the Sport-und-Turnfest (Sport and Gymnastics Festival) to be held in LEIPZIG in the first part of September 1956, then plans to enter a sanatorium for treatment of a blood circulatory ailment. HOEHER appeared physically tired and had a tendency to drag his right foot.

Prior to this trip to LEIPZIG, Source had received a post-card from HOEHER in which AUSSERMEIER was invited to the Sport and Gymnastic Festival in LEIPZIG. AUSSERMEIER wrote HOEHER that he was planning to travel to SCHEMOLLN and requested that he be met at LEIPZIG main railroad station by HOEHER on 7 July 1956. Source returned to STUTTGART on 9 July 1956, arriving at 2100 hours. (C-3)

On 8 August 1956, CIS coverage revealed that Otto AUSSERMEIER was the addressee of a post-card dated 6 August 1956 from Wolfgang HOEHER, translation of which is as follows:

W. HOEHER, LEIPZIG C 1, Thomasstrasse 2

6 August 1956

Dear Otto,

Cordial greetings to you and to your family from the Gymnastics and Sports Festival. I interrupted my leave especially for this purpose.

I am glad that we will soon see each other again. If you wish me to, I will be in FRANKFURT/Main on the 11th. Please send me an answer to this card at once. Greetings to all acquaintances and good-bye!

Work will not taste well after the leave.

Most cordially,

/s/ Wolf

(B-6)

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On 21 August 1956, Otto AUSSERMEIER reported the following information:

On approximately 8 August 1956, AUSSERMEIER received a postcard from SUBJECT in which Source was requested to meet SUBJECT in EISENACH, East Germany, on 11 August 1956. Source was to notify HOEHER as soon as possible whether he would be able to make the meeting.

Source sent a telegram immediately to HOEHER, informing him that he would arrive in EISENACH by train at approximately 1430 hours, 11 August 1956. Subsequently Source contacted Gottlob BERGER, presently residing in MOOSBURG, Germany, and learned that he too had received an invitation to EISENACH. They decided that they would travel to EISENACH together.

At approximately 0700 hours, 11 August 1956, Source and BERGER departed STUTTGART, Germany, for EISENACH by train, arriving in EISENACH at approximately 1530 hours the same day. They were met at the EISENACH railway station by SUBJECT and transported in SUBJECT's Volkswagen to Hotel Thuringerhof in EISENACH. They were allowed to clean up from the trip and at approximately 1700 hours, were met in the hotel by ex-General Josef BRANDT, Volkshammer (People's Chamber) delegate and former head of the Volkspolizei (People's Police), and ex-General (Pnu) HAEHLING. BRANDT showed the assembled group, which included HAEHLING, SUBJECT and BERGER, a letter, purportedly from Friedrich Von PAULUS, which indicated that due to his very poor health, Von PAULUS was handing over the reins of leadership of ADS to BRANDT. The main purpose of the meeting, was an attempt by BRANDT to convince BERGER to maintain better relations with Georg KBNECHT, allegedly the top man in ADS in the West Zone and attempt also to have a better understanding between East and West elements of ADS. BERGER, described by Source as being a very independent and stubborn individual, asked BRANDT what the prerequisite would be for unification of the East and West factions of ADS in order to attempt to have Germany reunified politically? BRANDT then stated that the Western faction of ADS was to propagandize against the required military service of the youth in the West Zone and that the six point plan set forth in the convention of ADS in East BERLIN in July 1955 were absolute prerequisites. BERGER, in a sharp exchange of words with BRANDT, told BRANDT that he would not go along with the plan. The meeting broke up at approximately 2100 hours on a discordant note. It was tentatively planned by the group that another meeting would take place sometime in September 1956 in the East Zone, the location of which will be announced at a later date. It was indicated that Georg KBNECHT, who was not present at the meeting at EISENACH, would be invited to the forthcoming meeting.

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HOMER only sat and listened during the discussion. He furnished transportation for Source and BERGER to and from the railroad station in EISENHACH.

BERGER and Source departed EISENHACH at approximately 0330 hours, 12 August 1956, arriving in STUTTGART at approximately 1330 hours, 12 August 1956. (C-3)