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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE

DATE: 17 January 1958

FROM : Chief of Base, Munich

Info: COS BOB

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/UPSWING/LCIMPROVE/HOEHNER

SPECIFIC— Wolfgang HOEHNER Case

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Reference: DIR 00522

1. The purpose of this dispatch is to review the events following Frau HOEHNER's defection circa 9 November. This report is to be considered preliminary and written only for the sake of getting some of the material in the record before an analysis can be completed.

2. Frau HOEHNER defected to West Berlin circa 9 November. The defection was apparently spontaneous and brought about among other reasons because Frau HOEHNER was dissatisfied with her husband's persistent activities in the intelligence field and particularly on behalf of the SRIS. Frau HOEHNER proved to be somewhat knowledgeable of her husband's activities at least to the extent that she was able to denounce several persons, two of whom, Gottlob BERGER (b. 16 July 1896, Gerstetten, Kra. Heidenheim) and Hannelore SCHROETER (b. 21 June 1921, Heilbronn), were subsequently arrested.

H. SCHWAB

3. The fact that his wife defected and that she was knowledgeable of his clandestine activities had no known effect on Wolfgang HOEHNER himself. Two letters sent to him urging him to come to the West remained unanswered for reasons best known to HOEHNER himself in spite of the fact that they indicated that his activities were to some extent compromised. Furthermore, Wolfgang HOEHNER's debriefing of his son, Dieter, who returned to East Berlin circa 17 November should have convinced him that as an agent handler, he had suffered or was about to suffer losses and that the security of his operations were nil unless one wants to assume that HOEHNER ran some certain sensitive operations which he knew could under no circumstances be considered compromised. Judging HOEHNER by his wife's remarks, this possibility seems remote.

4. What HOEHNER is currently doing and the nature of his relationship with PAUL, his SRIS case officer, is unknown. It would seem inconceivable that he would not be disciplined if the extent of the compromise were known to the SRIS. This does not imply that he was reduced to a position whereby he would consider defection. HOEHNER probably has served the SRIS well and faithfully for a matter of years and may have sufficient status to weather the present situation. Furthermore, it appears almost as inconceivable that HOEHNER and PAUL could enter into a conspiracy to suppress the results of Frau HOEHNER's defection to the West vis-a-vis

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the SRIS. There is also no reason known to us to assume that HOEHER has uncompromised assets that make him of continuing value to the SRIS. Thus for the time being, we see no alternative except to place a question mark on the status of HOEHER.

5. Fall HMLERGI is completely inactive. Through Frau HOEHER, it was learned that MESSERSCHMIDT's activity on behalf of the Bavarian LfV was known to HOEHER and that the SRIS/HOEHER planned to hold MESSERSCHMIDT prisoner the next time he came to East Berlin for a meeting. MESSERSCHMIDT has been warned not to visit the East and right now is of little intelligence use.

6. In contrast Fall DOMINO presents several new aspects. DOMINO was instrumental in bringing about the meeting of Gottlob BERGER and HOEHER during the course of 1955 under the guise of political activity on behalf of German veterans' organizations. Some statements by Frau HOEHER indicate that DOMINO himself was suspected during the course of 1955 as being an agent of the Baden Wurtemberg LfV. Because of BERGER's value, UPSWING theorizes that HOEHER fed DOMINO political EEIs until into 1956 in order to cloak BERGER's recruitment for espionage. In short DOMINO served one purpose so far as is known, namely, to get BERGER in contact with HOEHER. It is open to question whether DOMINO actually ever was recruited by HOEHER for espionage activity to the extent that he was required to sign a pledge, etc. He received only political EEIs and was dormant for many months prior to the takeover from CIC by UPSWING and he still is. At first it was hoped that HOEHER would attempt to clarify BERGER's status or the fact that he is under arrest through DOMINO. This has not materialized. Now UPSWING is toying with the idea of arresting DOMINO for a matter of a few days and then releasing him with instructions to write a letter to HOEHER asking for instructions. We are doubtful that this has much likelihood of getting a reaction from HOEHER but it may be worth the effort.

7. Hannelore SCHROETER is the single element of the case that does not appear overly complicated. She was arrested circa 9 December on the basis of Frau HOEHER's denunciation and immediately confessed to agent activity on behalf of HOEHER enumerating such EEIs as a surveillance of D St 23 Hqtrs. on Elizabethstr. in Munich and a surveillance of the UPSWING busses at the Starnberger Bahnhof in Munich. She had no EEIs directed against any specific UPSWING individual and her efforts were low level at best. One important fact is that she named her father, a resident of Weissenfels, as the courier to BERGER. UPSWING is planning on releasing SCHROETER in the hope that she can and will lure her father to the West solely for the purpose of a confrontation with BERGER.

8. At least one mission not involving UPSWING was given by HOEHER to SCHROETER in the presence of PAUL in January 1956. The target was Karin *SPEMANN (DOB and POB unknown), a German residing in Munich and allegedly an employee of the American Consulate in Munich. SCHROETER's mission was to determine the political orientation of this woman. SCHROETER came to Munich, checked out the Consulate and determined that no person by that name had been employed there. SCHROETER was able to locate the woman however who resided and still resides at Felix Dahnstr. 10. During the course of a visit on some pretext, SPEMANN introduced SCHROETER to a (Mr) Harold *SCHWARTZ (b. 11 March 1916), an American who indicated he was an interior decorator and had an office on Maximilianstr. 15. The current telephone directory lists

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SCHWARTZ at the same addresses but gives his profession as attorney. There is an indication that he was "fired" from RFE in 1952. It is now understood that he has recently applied for a position with PBCHORD.

9. Gottlob BERGER while under arrest since circa 9 December on the basis of Frau HOEHER's denunciation has confessed to using the pseudonym "SCHWAB" and that he had been in contact with HOEHER concerning veterans' organizations. He admits to receiving political directives from HOEHER and admits that HOEHER asked him to look up BENTZINGER, a member of the GEHLEN Organization, which he claims he declined to do. See attachment for a copy of the interrogation report of BERGER which was received after this dispatch had been drafted. Hence, there are many new aspects which are not reported in this dispatch.

10. The contents of BERGER's address books have also revealed some very startling information with manifold implications. The most enticing is reference to the "Schwarze Kapelle" in connection with which appeared the names of Alfred *BENTZINGER and "Augsburg - Dr. ALTHAUESER" who beyond question is Dr. @ALBERTI. There were innumerable references to BENTZINGER as "Fred" and a further reference to the Schwarze Kapelle as Schwarze [] and a reference to a person I presume to be Ludwig WOLFF in the following fashion WO [] with the word "verboten" underneath. Of course the date the "verboten" was written would be most interesting. Alias PETERS asserts there is no doubt in his mind that WOLFF was passing intelligence information to BERGER and there is little doubt in @BERNHARD's mind that D St 142 and BENTZINGER are not heavily involved.

11. One item worthy of note is the assumption (both UPSWING's and ours) that BENTZINGER has good sources in the LKA Baden Wurtemberg which presently has custody of BERGER. Hence BENTZINGER should know of BERGER's arrest and has as far as we can perceive taken no action. Later but much later UPSWING plans to get BENTZINGER's reaction but not until after BERGER has been completely debriefed. BERNHARD showed me a Who Knows Whom (WKW) scheme of UPSWING indicating the following V-numbers of D St 142 members and former members who had appeared in BERGER's address books:

V-3030	(Alfred BENTZINGER, [])
V-3036	(Georg KLANK, b. 24 February 1912 in Mannheim)
V-2881	(Fritz ARLT, [])
V-2882	(Hans Walter VOLLMER, [])
V-2621	(true name unknown)
V-2701	(true name unknown)
V-1602	(Walter Otto BARTH, [])

Also included were V-8844 and V-9460 from D St 12 and V-11740 whose name has not been surfaced for years. In the WKW in with the D St 142 group, @BERNHARD also carried Eduard *HILLER (b. 14 August 1899 in Pfalzgrafenweiler and last living Waiblingen, Winnender Steige 29) who had been dropped as a GV "L" agent in 1950 although he had continued to be quite close to BENTZINGER.

12. There are several schools of thought on the meaning of Schwarze Kapelle. The first is that it refers to the Ochsenpfepp circle of WW II days and the RC church. The second that it refers to a group penetrating the UPSWING organization itself and the third which is the idea of [] that it refers to a penetration of the West German Government and UPSWING through right-wing circles of which BERGER and HOEHER are prime examples. His reasoning is that the Schwarze Kapelle is a modern counterpart of the Rote Kapelle. Whereas the Rote Kapelle was a Communist (red) underground and espionage organization run by the SRIS against Germany, this new version is a Fascist (black) underground and espionage group with the same aims. In any event, perhaps we have a new term which could reach the prominence of its red-colored sister. Please see page 60 of the interrogation report for mention of the Schwarze Kapelle.

13. One factor which greatly alarmed us for a period of a few days shortly prior to Christmas was an indication of direct contact within the last six months between BERGER and Ludwig WOLFF of D St 12 in Munich who in turn is a close contact of Heinrich KURTZ now with D St 12. It is now apparent that BERGER's arrest means nothing to WOLFF or that he is not about to flee merely on the basis of BERGER's arrest. Both KURTZ and WOLFF have long been considered security risks within UPSWING. WOLFF, a former colonel in the SS, had been one of BERGER's close subordinates during WW II, and BERGER, in fulfilling some of HOEHER's political directives, had contacted WOLFF. One of these directives involved the RAJDERA Group. This directive however may have been a cover for a far more insidious group of directives.

14. In reference to V-2668, Frau HOEHER indicated that her husband and PAUL were well aware of 2668 and made vague remarks about him to the effect that he is one man "we don't have to worry about". Frau HOEHER was at a loss to explain exactly what was implied in such remarks. Frau HOEHER also stated that her husband was aware of financial irregularities committed by 2668 primarily in the field of claims for disbursements. It seems 2668 was prone to a lot of free wheeling with women other than his wife also. Beyond this nothing more is known. UPSWING still has 2668 at his former location in Bielefeld. BERNHARD claims they are still seriously considering the project designed to lure HOEHER West as proposed by [] in the spring of 1957 but as yet had no definite target date.

15. Concerning the alleged warning letter sent by HOEHER to BERGER, it appears it was a garbled reference to a letter received by BERGER. The letter written circa 22 November requested BERGER to come to East Berlin on 14 December. Please see page 41 of the attachment for a description of the contents. Gerda or Gertrud is obviously HOEHER's secretary. As far as is known, HOEHER was not advised that BERGER could not come and apparently HOEHER has not attempted to recontact BERGER. It is as yet too early to foresee what the interrogation of BERGER will bring forth and what future plays between BERGER and HOEHER are feasible.

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16. In answer to your question regarding the initial recruitment of Wolfgang HOEHER by the SRIS, nothing in the debriefing of Frau HOEHER shed any light on the initial recruitment. Frau HOEHER apparently acquired her sense of awareness in the field of espionage after the defection of her husband in February, 1953. We are still working on the assumption that HOEHER was recruited while a Soviet PW or immediately after his release and prior to his establishment of residence in West Berlin.

17. It appears now that we must await the results of the debriefing of BERGER before any new moves are planned. It is hoped that subsequent reports can include more detail of the security aspects involving D St 12 and 142.

Approved by

[]

Attachment:

(NSM)

1 - Interrogation Report

(Frau Helgart BERGER - in German)

FWG/rbo

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17 Jan 58