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SUBJECT: HERTZ, Dr. Wilhelm, Alt-Adress 69, Bezirk Gaudenz, Land Upper Austria, 22 July 1948
Security Threat.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Investigation was conducted on Subject on the basis of his past activities as Deputy Chief of Amt VI RONA, for the Balkans, and allegation that Subject is currently engaging in intelligence activities without the direction or supervision of an American agency.

Interrogation of Subject in November 1947, when he was confined in Lager Klausheim, Salzburg, awaiting transfer to Vienna for trial before the People's Court for illegal Nazi activities, determined the following information concerning his past activities:

Subject, HERTZ, Dr. Wilhelm, born 19 March 1915 in Vienna, Austrian national, currently residing Alt-Adress 69, Bezirk Gaudenz, Land Upper Austria, stated that he graduated from the University of Vienna in 1938 with the Degree of Doctor of History. In May 1938 Subject was appointed Chief of the SS Foreign Political Intelligence Section in Vienna with the rank of SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer. In October 1941, Subject said that he was demoted to Private, by order of Reichsfuehrer HEINRICH HEIMRICH, because he had contact with the Vatican and was trying to organize a peace movement. Subject indicated that rather than serve as a German soldier he obtained employment as a war correspondent with the British SOE. In February 1943, after the death of HEIMRICH, Subject was reinstated to his former rank of SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer and assigned to Amt VI RONA, as Deputy Chief for Southeast Europe, with headquarters in Berlin. In December 1943, Subject moved to Vienna, Austria with his staff, allegedly because he was in contact with the American Embassy in Madrid and for this reason wanted to get away from his headquarters in Berlin. In March 1944, Subject moved his headquarters to Budapest, Hungary, and in the summer of that year he succeeded in contacting the American Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. In December 1944 Subject, who was promoted at this time to the rank of SS-Sturmbannfuehrer, retreated in front of the advancing Soviet Army to Gaudenz on the Austro-Hungarian border. In March 1945 Subject, then in Steyrling, Bezirk Kirchdorf a. d. Krems, Land Upper Austria, allegedly contacted a Mr. Teolis of OSS in Switzerland. In May 1945 Subject claims to have surrendered himself to the American authorities in Bad Aussee, Bezirk Gaudenz, Land Upper Austria, and at this time submitted a complete report of his intelligence activities to OSS. Subject was then taken to Germany, where he was confined in various PW and interrogation camps until October 1947, at which time he was returned to Austria and confined in Lager Klausheim, Salzburg.

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On the basis of the above information this office refused clearance to the Austrian police authorities for Subject's extradition to Vienna for trial and ordered his release from confinement. Subject was released from confinement in December 1947, at which time he was told to keep this office informed of his activities, but so far he failed to do.

Interrogation of SCHMIDLER Iris, nee JOCKL, a personal friend of Subject, determined the following information concerning his past and present activities:

SCHMIDLER Iris, nee JOCKL, born 14 November 1911 in Vienna, Austria, Austrian national, residing Haunspergstrasse 54, Salzburg, stated that she has known Subject since 1938. SCHMIDLER alleged that she heard from her husband, SCHMIDLER Arthur, former Adjutant to General KUNZENDORF, the Chief of the SD, that Subject had been relieved of his rank and position in 1941 because it was discovered that he was selling information to the French, English, Americans, and the Vatican. SCHMIDLER further alleged that in the past two months Subject has been a frequent visitor to Salzburg where he has contacted various former German Intelligence personnel. SCHMIDLER further stated that Subject, although he is currently unemployed, has a seemingly unlimited supply of money.

Interrogation of Eduard Kugel, former Chief, SD, Jugoslavia, concerning Subject's activities determined the following information:

Eduard Kugel, born 9 October 1911 in Jugoslavia, Stateless, currently employed as an informant by TNS, MICOV, stated that he has known Subject since 1940 and that in his opinion Subject would work for any or all nations for money. KUGEL alleged that in the early part of June 1948 he had been contacted by Subject who inquired of him whether or not he (KUGEL) would like to work in an intelligence net which Subject was forming. KUGEL further alleged that Subject had indicated that he (Subject) would have an intelligence net comprised of one and of August 1948, at which time he would go to the highest American authorities and offer them his services, at a price. KUGEL indicated that he had said no to Subject's offer and has not seen him since.

The following information concerning Subject's activities was received from a reliable informant who is a personal friend of Subject's and is in direct contact with him. (Informant's "Herzmann" Evaluation: C-3)

Subject is currently engaged in forming an intelligence net which he plans to have in operation by the end of August 1948. Subject has contacted former German Intelligence personnel who are now working as informants for all four occupying powers and has inquired of them if they will work for him.

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Subject is alleged in contact with JEDLIKA Ludwig, General Secretary of the Cominform for Austria, and CALOTNA Raman, former Chief, SD, Prague CCR, and since May 1945 leader of an intelligence net for the USSR, under the cover of a Press Bureau.

Informant was unable to give any further information concerning Subject or his activities.

On 15 June 1948, this agent received a letter from Subject in which he inquired as to the reasons why his good friend JEDLIKA is being investigated by the CIC, Vienna. Subject also stated in his letter that one day he will have valuable forces of the former German Intelligence Service behind him when they are called upon to cooperate with the Americans.

A check of the files of this office failed to disclose any additional pertinent information concerning Subject or any of the other personalities mentioned above.

SOURCE: CIC Report

EVALUATION: C-3
Fairly reliable
Possibly true

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