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6 December 1948

SUBJECT: Freie Stimmen (Free Voice).

TO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters, USRA
APO 777, U.S. Army

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2008

1. On 20 November 1948 the first edition of Subject, an independent opinion weekly in line, appeared for public sale. Upon the basis of the first edition - and specifically one article attacking persons who conveniently was the charge of "neo-fascism" or "neo-fascism" to silence political opponents - the *Volkszeitung* newspapers *Der Abend* and *Volksstimme* in Vienna, Austria, on 21 November labeled Subject as "neo-Nazi" and the *Volkszeitung* to the banned Heimatruf, Graz neo-Nazi weekly, in their editions of 22 November. The Soviet element concurrently made the same accusation in the Allied Council and asked for Subject's liquidation.

2. Subject is published by the Roeserberg Publishing House, Liebenau 11, Linz, which was founded on 9 November 1946. The heads of the House are *W. Roeserberg*, *W. Roeserberg*, and *W. Roeserberg*, who - like the responsible editor *ASCHAU* - were linked in no way to the Heimatruf.

There are 3 former Heimatruf employees now serving on Subject:

GIENGER Walfried - a former editor of, but subordinate figure in, the Heimatruf, who had political differences with the Heimatruf publishers;

JASSEN Manfred - ex-Heimatruf editor whose political viewpoints clashed with those of the *STUCKM* group of the Heimatruf. He now has a key editorial slot with Subject;

GRANINGER Herfried - an administrative assistant on the Heimatruf who is employed as bookkeeper with Subject.

3. None of the former heads of Graz's *Alpecaendliche Verlag*, which produced the Heimatruf - *STUCKM* Ilse, *FRANICH* Dr., *FRANICH* Franz - are officially or unofficially connected with Subject. The *Alpecaendliche Verlag*, still in operation to liquidate the Heimatruf, intends to found a new weekly paper. Thus the Verlag is opposed to Subject, and is attempting to lower Subject's circulation in Steiermark. In addition to competitive reasons, rivalry between Subject and the Verlag has been nourished by the departure of *GIENGER* and *JASSEN* to Subject. When inquiries regarding

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Subject's political complexion are made to the Verlag, the answer is unfavorable; the Verlag asserts Subject's political opinions are contrary to those of ex-Heimatruf readers, and that Subject should not be subscribed to. Also, the Verlag has refused to sell its subscription list to Subject because of the differences in political opinion, on the basis that the list can only be sold to a paper with a Heimatruf-like tone.

4. Subject has received substantial aid and support from the Upper Austrian Volkspartei, but claims to be under no obligation to support the Volkspartei. Circulation offices of Subject are in Innsbruck and Klagenfurt. Vienna circulation is handled by the WALDNER & BRAUNER Firm; the Heimatruf's Vienna circulation arm was the MGL Firm.

5. The contents of Subject are those of a lively, American-style independent journal, completely in tune with Western political opinion. The keynote is anti-Bolshevism. There has been no direct or indirect neo-Nazi propaganda printed in Subject. The propaganda published has been analyzed in the Weekly Sitreps of this Section, dated 30 November 1948 and 7 December 1948.

6. The "neo-Nazi" charge voiced against Subject by the Communist press and the Soviet Element apparently is merely a propaganda reflex to Subject's vigorous anti-Bolshevik tone.

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Land Upper Austria

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