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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS

430th DET. U.S.F.A.

Land Upper Austria Sub Detachment
APO 174

110672 File
ACTION:
IN: C.I. OPNS
REGOR (FILE)

U.S. Army
6 February 1950
Gmunden Field Office
ZCY:ecd
SOI: L/17679

SUBJECT: HOETTL, Wilhelm Dr. - Mussolini Diary

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The following information was given to this office on 1 February 1950 by confidential informant 10/6357, who has numerous contacts among Austrian newspaper correspondents. Evaluation: Source "B" (usually reliable); Information "2" (probably true).

The Salzburger Nachrichten had published in its editions of 25, 26, and 27 January 1950 that it would soon publish the authentic entries of Mussolini's Diary starting with his overthrow (25 July 1943) until he was rescued by Otto SKORZENY and brought to the Reich.

On 26 January 1950 the Salzburger Nachrichten was contacted by the "Nibelungen Verlag" of Linz (publishers of Subject's book "Die Geheime Front") and requested to be shown the diary which was in the newspaper's possession. After careful examination of the diary the representatives of the "Nibelungen Verlag" stated that they find themselves in a precarious situation brought about by HOETTL who informed them that his copy of the diary (which was incorporated into his book) was the only one in existence; they further stated that after examination of the Salzburger-Nachrichten copy they felt certain that HOETTL's copy was not authentic. The representatives of "Nibelungen Verlag" also stated that a series of articles of Subject's book were appearing in the Viennese newspaper "Die Presse", and that a Stuttgart newspaper had also bought the copyright for Germany and intended to publish same.

It appeared as though Subject had misled his publisher and lawyer by the Mussolini Diary therefore discrediting his book at the same time. Furthermore legal action may be taken by the Viennese newspaper, "Die Presse", and by the Stuttgart newspaper, to say nothing of the other publishers who had purchased the copyrights on Subject's book.

Source stated that Subject had written Otto SKORZENY (sometime in the latter part of 1949) asking him if he had or knew of anyone who had a copy of the Mussolini Diary. In answer to Subject's letter, SKORZENY

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sent him the name and address of a former SS officer who served on Mussolini's General Staff and was at that time living in South Tyrol. SKORZENY also wrote HOETTL that this man made a hurried translation of the diary for him and that the possibility existed that he may have made a copy for himself. It is the informant's belief that Subject received from this officer his hurried notes of the Mussolini Diary.]

FILE CHECK:

Files of this office reveal numerous reports pertaining to Subject.

SOI, Gmunden Field Office, dated 1 February 1950, L/17678, subject: "HOETTL, Wilhelm," mentions Subject's book, publisher and "Die Presse".

HOIC, dated 6 February 1950, L/17677, subject: "Nibelungen Verlag, Buecherdienst, Buchverlag und Vertreibsgesellschaft Speck und Co." - gives details on the inauguration and personnel of the firm in which HOETTL's wife is connected.

SOURCE: 10/6357

J.C. Yanecko
J.C. YANECKO
S/AIC Gmunden Field Office

APPROVED:

J.H. Allen
John D. MACDONALD
Chief of Operations
Land Upper Austria

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