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VIA: (SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE)

DISPATCH NO. MAV-A-052

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division
Attention:
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna

DATE: 22 November 1950

SUBJECT: GENERAL - (C) Operational Matters - Austria
SPECIFIC - Balmond STRANGL, KODRE and LAHOUSEN (C) (ren)

Reference: MAV-A-6621

1. Attached is CIC Vienna Report No. MOIC-15117 concerning the multiple intelligence connections of STRANGL. There is much information that can be carried. (C-2 Operations and [] are watching the STRANGL case very closely. They consider it a purely CI case although STRANGL does turn over positive information. All missing STRANGL reports will be collected and forwarded.
2. [] reports that STRANGL was thrown out of the Austrian Army for writing anti-government articles in German newspapers in 1935; that he was a member of the N.S. Soldatenring and an illegal Nazi until 1939; that he was taken into the Wehrmacht as Fährlich (officer candidate) but dismissed on charges of homosexuality. He then got a job as weapons technician in the Krupp works in Germany and in 1943 he offered his services to [] as armaments expert. [] describes him as a "Übler Geselle" who should not be tolerated by any western army or intelligence group.
3. The information on KODRE in paragraph 4 of MOIC-15117 is a typical example of STRANGL's operating procedure. He first told his CIC case officer, Anton FREIHOFNER, that there was a non-political resistance organization in existence and that Colonel Heinrich KODRE had been "tentatively selected to be one of the leaders". He then told FREIHOFNER that he had discussed the question of radio communication between himself and his Swiss IS employers (Colonel TABER). See Attachment to MAV-A-6621, paragraph 2. In the attached report he says that KODRE has commissioned him to obtain all possible aid from the Swiss to help establish a resistance movement, including radio equipment. It seems quite clear that STRANGL is merely trying to get his hands on some radio equipment and that his resistance story is mostly "hot air".
4. [] considers KODRE a dangerous character. We have reported his biography previously but the following from [] may be new. While serving with the Austrian Army, KODRE was frequently in conflict with his superiors on political and discipline matters and was therefore strongly disliked. He was an illegal Nazi (SA) and a member of the so-called "Vernaderer" circle prior to 1939. His party membership number, according to the Berlin Documents Center, is 6.154.355, one of a block of numbers given to the pre-1938 Nazis in Austria. [] does not consider LAHOUSEN's 11th hour jump to the July 1944 group was sincere and considers KODRE's automatic de-registration unjustified. In 1949 KODRE submitted a memorandum to State Secretary GRAF containing suggestions

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on the establishment of the future Austrian Army. GRAY consulted [] and on his recommendation, broke contact with KOBRE.

- 5. The information on General Erwin LAHOUSEN in paragraph 2 is basically correct. For almost a year LAHOUSEN had not been able to do much of anything in the intelligence field because he has been tied to the bed of his very sick wife. The wife died on 13 November 1950, and there will now probably be a scramble to recruit him. A letter from LAHOUSEN to [] on 8 November 1950 states that LAHOUSEN is currently working with a "Mr. COLVIN" of the "Kensley Newspapers" (England) on a book about CANARIS. He is also helping with a book which Willi HUTTEL (pen name HAGEN) and the Mielchengenverlag are doing for a U. S. publisher, Hearst Press, on "Eastern Problems". LAHOUSEN ends his letter by saying, "Thus I loan or sell my knowledge to others, not daring to write anything myself for fear of again becoming the center of a controversy in the press." It will be remembered that LAHOUSEN contributed much of the material for the Abshagen biography of CANARIS.

[alias]

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- 2 - Salz w/incl.

cc [] w/incl.