

Chief Foreign Division "M"
Attn: Chief of Station, Vienna

28 November 1951

Operational

Raimund STRANGL and Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL

1. Forwarded herewith are documents given to Gragora/11 by [redacted] on 21 November 1951 and passed the same day to Gruesome/15, who forwarded them to [redacted] under XOR-3556. [redacted] stated that they had been found on an undisclosed date by unnamed police officials who performed a search of STRANGL's residence, presumably at [redacted] instigation after STRANGL was arrested in Wiener Neustadt. [redacted] opined that the reports might be of interest to Gragora, and mentioned the possibility that the reports of which the documents are carbon copies might have been prepared for French or Swiss intelligence. He added that these documents were only a part of the material found in STRANGL's apartment.

2. A glance through the documents will reveal that they are a portion of a permanent file of reports and correspondence kept in chronological form by STRANGL. Though each report occupies only a portion of a page, they are typed in sequence with several on each page, so that the originals could be cut apart and handled separately. Mixed with the reports are letters of a certain "Sehr geehrter Herr Doktor", who is almost certainly Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL. These letters, of which [redacted] has permitted us to have twenty-three, are curious of the most amusing order and contain here and there a grain of operationally interesting material. They have been separated from the other reports and are clipped in chronological order. We commend them to the attention of [redacted] whose experience in the problem of Stranglism is extensive.

3. Some of the conclusions to be drawn from the letters can be summarized here:

a. As early as June 1951 HOETTL had steady employment or at least a steady contact with some intelligence agency. STRANGL sent HOETTL sheaves of reports which HOETTL undertook to rewrite and market. Both men were aware of the dangers of multiple dissemination, since on 26 June STRANGL cautioned HOETTL that "die Berichte sind nicht exklusiv." This caution is repeated later, and on 12 July 1951 he remarks "since you are rewriting the report I am somewhat less anxious". Again on 31 July he congratulates HOETTL on his "Redaktion", and on 21 August says "you have the biggest job since you must always paraphrase (umstilisieren) the reports". STRANGL

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2008

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

admitted to HOETTL that he was passing his reports to other customers and never seriously pretended that he worked exclusively for any service.

b. At Hoettl's instigation STRANGL took up a contact with a man named "Sepp", presumably Josef MASCHER, but as far as he told HOETTL, this contact was not rewarding. On 12 July he reported that Sepp was selling to the Stapo, reselling the same reports elsewhere, and finally giving them every Saturday to a "Mysterious X", together with a travel diary. Some of his reports concerned the Burgenland.

c. Both STRANGL and HOETTL used newspapers a great deal in their work, and sent each other bundles of newspapers, presumably to use in preparing reports.

d. HOETTL, at the instigation of some unidentified person, asked STRANGL to acquire Hungarian information, suggesting phony reports on border crossers. On 14 August ~~MASCHER~~ remarked that STRANGL such border reports could not be sold because the customers had access to the non-coded broadcasts of the Hungarian police. He proposed instead actual debriefing of refugees, but not through the Austrian gendarmerie.

e. HOETTL asked STRANGL to report on something referred to as "BH", which may stand for Bundesheer (Federal Army). STRANGL on 3 September turned in a short report on REGELE, LIEBITZKY, NEUGEBAUR, Matthias GRUBER, Generalmajor BORNEMANN, etc.

f. HOETTL was in touch with a group referred to as the Hamburg Shop (Hamburger Firma). On 19 September STRANGL sent twelve reports with the suggestion that HOETTL might use them in his dealings with this group. One suspects that Zipper and the Berlin Base may be able between them to clarify the identity of the group.

g. STRANGL attempted to get assistance for a journalist friend from HOETTL, and asked on 14 August that HOETTL send his friend some (Soviet?) army newspapers. One might guess from Gruesome knowledge of STRANGL's activity that the journalist in question is William Gerald BISHOP.

h. HOETTL's pay to STRANGL was only a fraction of STRANGL's income, amounting to 1000 AS per month with some additional payment to cover expenses. On one occasion (13 September) relations involving money became slightly strained, but HOETTL evidently came through with the sum demanded.

1. In September STRANGL was informing his contacts in Austria that he was not in the good graces of the Swiss. He gave the same story to Gruesome contacts, and one recalls that this was partly confirmed by a Swiss contact of []

4. [] motive in giving the documents to Gragora is obscure, since it is difficult to tell whether [] is aware of the identity of the sehr geehrter Herr Doktor or of Sepp. When the opportunity arises [] will thank [] for the gift and remark that the documents fully confirm all our previous conclusions concerning STRANGL, though on the other hand [] may be getting copies of HOETTL's reports directly in Alt Aussee.

Inol []

Dist:
2-Wash
2-Vien
2-Salz