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DISPOSITION FORM		SECURITY INFORMATION
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FILE NO.	SUBJECT	DATE	COMMENT NO. 1
10 Opns - Luongo	HOETTL, Dr. Wilhelm. Summary From Files FROM Records - Davidson	27 Feb 52	

1. Subsequent paragraphs contain summary of file information on Subject as requested in your query. Dossier is available for further checking at your convenience.

2. HOETTL was born 19 March 1915 in Gumpendorf, a quarter of Vienna. He graduated from the University of Vienna in 1938 with degree of Doctor of History and joined the Sicherheitsdienst immediately, being assigned to the Foreign Political Section in Vienna. In October 1941 he was expelled from his job and supported himself by acting as a war correspondent with Waffen SS units until February 1943, when he again was appointed to a post with the SD and was assigned to the Budapest office of Amt VI RSHA. As the Soviet forces approached Budapest he fled to Austria and surrendered to US forces in May 1945. He was confined in an American internment camp in Germany until October 1947, during which period he was employed as an indigenous interrogator. Since the camp contained many important SS personalities and persons of the Quisling type, HOETTL had the opportunity of acquiring an extensive knowledge of SS operations and of political intrigues at high level which had occurred during the war. This material he later incorporated in his book Die geheime Front, published by the Hibelungen Verlag in Linz under the nom de plume waiter HAGEN, attempting throughout to give the impression that he possessed the information because of the extraordinarily sensitive and important SS posts he claimed to have held during the Nazi regime; in actuality, he was never a figure of dominant importance in the SD and his much advertised negotiations with American intelligence in Bern amounted to one tentative conversation with a minor Austrian agent of US intelligence, results of which were nil.

3. In October 1947 HOETTL was transferred from Germany to an internment camp in Salzburg and he was released from confinement in December 1947. He took residence at Altaussee 53, where he still resides and occupied himself with freelance journalism and petty intelligence trafficking until the spring of 1949, when he established contact with American intelligence and under American Sponsorship undertook a broad intelligence mission. In the summer of 1949, American support of HOETTL was stopped for several reasons:

- a. The information which he had provided was proven to have been largely fabricated by HOETTL and his associates from journalistic sources;
- b. A part of the information provided was proven to be actual and deliberate deception aimed at misleading American intelligence.
- c. Investigation and surveillance had established that HOETTL was in contact with Soviet intelligence and the supposition was very strong that HOETTL was acting as a double agent under Soviet control.

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d. HOETTL had repeatedly lied concerning his operational contacts and had embezzled large sums of money paid him for operational purposes.

e. HOETTL had on several occasions deliberately passed to unauthorized persons sensitive information on American intelligence officers and methods.

4. In early 1950 it was established that the Nibelungen Verlag, ostensibly HOETTL's publishers, is actually partly owned by HOETTL's wife, Elfriede nee ZELINGER, born 11 April 1912, and that a silent partner in the enterprise is the former SD man Dr. von BORDAJKJEWITSCH, who is supported and financially backed in the business by the Soviet authorities. Early in 1952 HOETTL invested an additional 50,000 Schillings in the Nibelungenverlag from his account in Switzerland (about \$200,000) which contains a portion of the operational funds of the SD over which HOETTL gained control in 1945.

5. The British are believed to be currently interested in HOETTL because of the recent arrest in the Soviet Zone of an agent in whom they placed great trust and on whom they relied for critical military information. This agent, whose identity is on record elsewhere, has been an associate of HOETTL and it is believed by this office as well as by the British that HOETTL compromised the agent to the Soviets and caused his liquidation because of the agent's refusal to cooperate wholeheartedly in HOETTL's attempts to sell fabricated information to various offices in Germany.

6. Since HOETTL's dismissal from American employ, reports of his contacts with Soviet intelligence have been frequent and plausible. He is known to have contact with the Soviet agents Hans Georg SCHWARZKOPF, Frietjof RIEDL and Richard KAUDER alias KLATT, all of whom are or have recently been active in the area of Salzburg. In his political activities he has associated with Adolf SLAVIA, the founder of the Nationale Liga and has recently been in contact with representatives of the Soviet occupation who are reported to have enlisted his cooperation in organizing former SS and SD personnel into a political movement sponsored by the Soviet government.

7. In 1949 and 1950, HOETTL was an important member of the so-called Gmundener Kreis, a politico-intelligence organization which included Erich KRUMMAYER, Karl KONARIK, Stefan SCHACHERMAYER and others. One of his closest associates in intelligence work and fabrication is Josef MASCHER alias Josef ROMANY, who has collaborated extensively with Josef Adolf URBAN in fabricating information on communist party and cominform activities as well as on conditions inside Czechoslovakia. A large amount of this information was disseminated to Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Austria through connections established out of Salzburg by one Milos SWOBODA. Another close associate of HOETTL in Austria is Karl WINZLER, who together with his friend Franz KRAUTZBERGER, now in Munich, acted as outlet for false political information and false information on Hungary.

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8. We are informed that HOETTL's current efforts to establish a Soviet controlled apparatus within the structure of the new German intelligence service are being closely watched and information pertaining to this activity will be compiled on a continuous basis.

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