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SECURITY INFORMATION

9 April 1952

Chief, EE

Chief of Station, Frankfurt

OPERATIONAL

Hoettl, Wilhelm (CAPOTE)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

Ref: MGLA-9983

1. Attached hereto are intercepts which were sent to FOB for study and perusal in connection with the CAPOTE-Hoettl relationship.

2. We have previously mentioned in CAPOTE memoranda that he does maintain close contact with Hoettl primarily to collect Austrian internal political information. CAPOTE has repeatedly told me he is highly skeptical of Hoettl's OB information and does not pass it on to the Blank Office. He considers Hoettl's political information bona-fide, however, and to the best of my knowledge it is receiving distribution in the Chancellory of the West German Government.

3. CAPOTE claims he pays Hoettl only for political information and not for the OB. Hoettl has been trying hard, CAPOTE alleges, to establish a chain working into Trieste, Rome, the Vatican and North Africa, but CAPOTE is highly skeptical of this deal and so far has not "bought" this plan from Hoettl. Hoettl is also another one of CAPOTE's numerous sources on ZIPPER activities. For awhile, CAPOTE believed HOETTTL to be an agent of ZIPPER with the express purpose of misleading him; however, in recent months, Hoettl apparently has proven his relationship to CAPOTE as being bona-fide.

4. I note in paragraph 7 of MGLA-9983 a comment that the material Hoettl sends CAPOTE as being of little value. It states "we felt and feel now that if this is at all representative of CAPOTE's take, he is a long way from becoming a figure in the GIS". My only comment is that as time goes on CAPOTE is becoming more and more solidly entrenched in th. GIS and since this report was written he has added eleven more people to his staff, his budget has increased, he is obtaining permanent offices in a commercial building in Frankfurt and he recently received a note of commendation — handwritten by the Federal Chancellor praising his reporting on the Austrian and French political scenes — the information for his Austrian report coming principally from Hoettl! I might add to this that CAPOTE has a weekly courier to and from Munich and I seriously doubt whether he sends any highly sensitive material through the mail. Let us not be misled as to CAPOTE's information gathering capabilities and his "sales promotion" ability, they are his strong points.

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- 2 -

5. CAPOTE considers Hoettl as an uncouth and characterless individual. As previously mentioned, he believes his OB to be "inflated" and containing a mixture of overt and semi-overt information. He steadfastly maintains, however, that Hoettl has ability and does get bona-fide internal political information which, over a period of months, has proven to be true. By carefully sifting Hoettl's information, CAPOTE claims he can salvage some first rate information. Hoettl receives 600.00 DMs monthly for his political information.

6. We will keep further tabs on the Hoettl-CAPOTE relationship and would be interested in any information POB can supply in this connection.

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