

VIA: \_\_\_\_\_  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA TOUCH)

DISPATCH NO. MASA-1678

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE  
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna <sup>Sub</sup>  
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational  
SPECIFIC— Capote and Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL

DATE: 21 May 1952

RECORDED

JAN 19 1952

Reference— MASW-407, MGFA-6452

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1. [ ] and [ ] read MGFA-6452 independently and came to identical conclusions, to wit that from the point of view of the Austrian Station support to Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL is a Bad Thing, whether given by Capote or by anybody else. Having for some time watched HOETTL from three different points of view, we each feel also that support to HOETTL is a waste of money and effort for the German Station.

2. The collection of internal Austrian political information at a low level (there is no other level for such information in Austria) does not require the talents of a very astute operator. HOETTL, like a couple of dozen other types in Austria, can turn out a sizeable volume of such information without interrupting his regular pattern of coffee house conversations. On the other hand, Dr. ADENAUER's handwritten commendation notwithstanding, we suspect that Dr. HOETTL's analysis of the Austrian political scene is distinguished more by its rhetoric than by its profundity. It probably concerns itself in part with the activities of a number of splinter groups whose affairs are the subject of general gossip and who make a great deal of noise, but whose actual impact on political events in Austria is negligible. These groups always appear in a foreshortened perspective to German observers because their membership is largely SS or otherwise Nazi, because they operate in a conspiratorial atmosphere, and because they have connections with similar groups in Germany.

3. To assess HOETTL's OB information it is only necessary to recall the case of Raimund STRANGL, whose reports HOETTL rewrote and dizzied as his own to various customers, include Capote. A batch of these reports together with copies of correspondence between STRANGL and HOETTL is on file at Headquarters.

4. It is true that HOETTL has been working hard to establish a chain working into Trieste, Rome, the Vatican and the Arab States, where a number of Germans are living. Capote's support to HOETTL amounts to support of

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SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

this effort, since whether Capote knows it or not, HOETTL is telling all persons with whom he comes in contact in his attempts to build a southern line that he has been officially instructed by the Bonn government to establish an apparatus in the Mediterranean Region. Dylean policy toward such encouragement of HOETTL is probably a matter for SE and EE to determine by inter-division negotiation, but our local opinion here is that it would be a serious mistake to permit HOETTL to build himself up.

5. HOETTL recently (26-27 April 1952) attempted to travel to Italy to make certain contacts. He was turned back at the Brenner as being persona non grata in Italy. It would be interesting to learn how HOETTL explained to Capote his inability to enter Italy.

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