

VIA: _____
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. EASA-372

SECRET
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief, EE
FROM Attention: C. _____
Chief, Salzburg Base

DATE: 25 November 1952

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/GROOVI
SPECIFIC— GROSSBAHN/CC-2 Contact Report Covering Meeting with
(Dr. Wilhelm) HOETTL

Ref: EASA-205, SSALZ 648, SSALZ 632

1. Attached hereto is a copy of subject report. The CC-2/HOETTL relationship continues to be of marginal interest in the overall GROSSBAHN operations (except for the possible security implications) but we see no reason for not following the matter without the expenditure of undue effort.

2. The gist of what HOETTL related to CC-2 seems to follow fairly closely what he related to Carlo HASS (as reported to us verbally by Detachment 35) so we feel our lukewarm attitude toward picking up contact with HASS, as expressed in last two cited references, is somewhat justified. We see no sound reason for an additional operation with HASS following the machinations of ex-GIS personnel (principally HOETTL) in Austria, when we can accomplish the same results as a by-product of the normal GROSSBAHN operations.

3. On the HOETTL/HEINZ/HASS matter, GROSSBAHN informed us verbally a week or so ago that HEINZ' Munich representative had gone to considerable pains to spell out in letter form to HOETTL, exactly why he was being dropped by the Blank office. This letter, of all things, was posted in Germany to HOETTL in Austria, which may or may not mean that someone was deliberately trying to have the letter fall into Allied censorship channels. The possibilities of why this was done are interesting and varied, ranging from an honest effort to explain to Dr. HOETTL why he was being dropped through to an elaborate scheme to create the illusion HOETTL was being discharged but actually to render the HEINZ/HOETTL contact less visible. HASS has reported to Detachment 35 that HOETTL states that now that he has been dropped by HEINZ, the latter wishes to take up direct contact with HASS. HOETTL has been attempting to induce HASS to travel with him to Munich for the purpose of meeting HEINZ' man there,

FOR COORDINATION WITH Army

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at which time HASS is to be made Chief Agent in the Italian area. HASS is supposedly awaiting instructions from Detachment 35 as to how to proceed. Knowing his past performances, it would not be surprising if he has not already established direct contact in Munich and will report the matter later, if it fits his purposes.

L.C.M.
Bill

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Attachment to EASA-372

18 November 1952

SUBJECT: Meeting between CC 2 and Dr. Wilhelm HÖTTL

I. Opening of Meeting

a. How and for when arranged:

On 13 November 1952 I received a letter from Dr. Wilhelm HÖTTL asking for a meeting on Friday, 14 November 1952, at the Bad Ischl Bahnhofsrestauration.

b. Date, time, and place held:

I met Dr. HÖTTL on Friday, 14 November 1952, at the Bad Ischl station restaurant at 1515 hours.

II. Production

III. Operational Matters

- a. HÖTTL stated that he now has to intensify again his journalistic work and that he would appreciate my collaboration. The four tasks in question were (a) a complete revision of his book "Die Geheime Front" for a U.S. edition, (b) completion of his long interrupted new manuscript on Hitler's and Stalin's "fifth columns", (c) the writing of a series of articles on the last stage of the war in the "Alpenfestung" regions, to be published in the weekly "Wochenend" (Olympia Verlag, Nuremberg), (d) writing of a story to the last photo of Hitler taken by SCHAUB on 20 April 1945, to be offered to American photo agencies or weeklies. Regarding items a) and c) I recommended to HÖTTL to contact an American expert; as to b) and d) I agreed to collaborate with him.
- b. Regarding his last trip to Germany, HÖTTL was evasive. He mentioned that he had frustrately protested against his removal and had not been able to converse with BLANK personally. He had also tried to find a German publisher to distribute his "Geheime Front" in Germany and had signed a contract with a Stuttgart publisher, the name of which he did not mention.

An Italian edition had finally appeared with Garzanti, Milano, and a French edition with Editions Les Isles d'Or, a branch of Editions Plon.

- c. When asked whether he would not become re-engaged in intelligence activity, HÖTTL replied that he was trying to get jobs for his former collaborators within another German intelligence branch. I did not succeed in having him tell me what organization he had in mind. HÖTTL himself wants to retire from intelligence work, for a longer period at least. He has allegedly learned from experience that he had too much publicity and that he had too many political opponents. Former nazis consider him a traitor, said he, whereas anti-nazis dislike him as a former nazi. He can show up nowhere without arising hostile feelings. He would therefor prefer to remain in the background except for his literary work.
- d. For the time being Nibelungen Verlag has been saved by selling large quantities of both "Geheime Front" to the above Stuttgart publisher, and "Die Throne stürzen" (by Bruno BREHM) to Kaiser Verlag, Klagenfurt.

IV. Operational Factors

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V. Biographical and Personal Factors

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VI. Supply and Support

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VII. Close of Meeting

- a. Time and circumstances of close of meeting:
The conversation was finished shortly before 1800 hours, when HÖTTL left for Bad Aussee by train.
- b. Arrangements for new meeting:
The next meeting is planned for a few weeks later.

* HÖTTL expressed that the position of HEINZ in Bonn seemed much weaker, and at the utmost a merger between him and GEHLEN would become effective. The financial status of HEINZ appears to be also much weaker than originally claimed by HEINZ and his collaborators.