

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

GID 43-2081

AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT HOETTL, Wilhelm Contact <del>with</del> Theodor von Albert and Rudiger Lippman Land Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria	2. DATE SUBMITTED 7 April 1953 11 - 2 3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO. HO-01766 S-17322 RER/mdf
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4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

On 1 April 1953 this Agent interviewed Theodor von Albert in the German language at his residence Neufanggasse 3, Salzburg, Land Salzburg, Austria concerning his contact with WILHELM HOETTL, well-known intelligence operative, and received the following information:

a. Albert, born 9 October 1922 in Planegg, Bavaria, Germany, Austrian citizen, is a newspaper man by profession. Albert first met SUBJECT in March or April 1952. At that time SUBJECT contacted Albert's apartment, introduced himself, and stated that someone had given him Albert's name as a possible source of information concerning the publication Interreport Ost in Vienna, Austria, with which Albert had been connected until January 1951.

b. During subsequent meetings between Albert and SUBJECT, the latter asked if Albert could provide him with background material on Yugoslavia since SUBJECT was allegedly working at that time on a new book dealing with World War II intelligence matters in the Balkan countries. During one of these conversations, HOETTL disclosed to Albert that he had excellent contacts with Allan Dulles, the US representative in Switzerland during World War II, and Colonel Bill Donovan, a member of the OSS. SUBJECT further stated that he was entrusted to work for a West German intelligence service and that his specific field of activities was to gather political and economic information about the Southeastern European countries. He asked Albert if he would like to help him in that endeavor. Albert agreed because SUBJECT promised him that he would assist Albert to establish connections with West German newspapers where Albert could publish his newspaper articles.

c. At the beginning of their contact, SUBJECT often came to Salzburg and obtained verbal information from Albert. Later, the information was submitted in written reports which were forwarded to SUBJECT via one Baron Heinrich Mast, Linz, Land Upper Austria. On one of his later visits, SUBJECT disclosed to Albert that he was the Austrian representative of the so called "Amt Blank" (office Blank), an intelligence organization sponsored by the Bonn government in Germany. SUBJECT also stated at that time that Mast was his deputy.

d. Albert stated that he obtained the information which he submitted to SUBJECT from various local West German refugees, newspaper analysis and from confidential sources, whose identity Albert could not disclose at the present time. Albert also occasionally traded information with one Josef Angerer, a local Austrian State Police official. Albert added that he must inform his superiors in the "Amt Blank" about his interview with this Agent and that on the same time he (Albert) would

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THE PROVISIONS of Para 5 & 7, Art 231 - 130 apply

COORDINATION WITH

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT ROLY E. BINGER, S/A GIC 4304 GIC Sub-Dept 2 (Salzburg)	6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT <i>[Signature]</i> 00051 104 CONFIDENTIAL
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Contact with Theodor von Albert  
and Rudiger Lippman  
Land Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

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ask permission to disclose his sources to the Americans. For the information submitted to SUBJECT, Albert received a monthly payment of approximately 1500 schillings, expenses included.

e. In the fall of 1952, Albert was contacted by two members of the "Amt Blank" Intelligence Service in Munich, Germany, one Schulz, first name unknown; and one Mork (or Mark), first name unknown. They told him that SUBJECT had been eliminated from the "Amt Blank" and that Albert could continue to work for the above-mentioned intelligence organization or stay with SUBJECT. Since Albert, in the meantime, had received information to the effect that SUBJECT was extremely unreliable and was forwarding information which Albert submitted to SUBJECT to various other agencies including the Austrian State Police and the Austrian Ministry of Interior, he decided to accept the offer to continue his activities for the "Amt Blank" intelligence service.

f. Albert claimed that even after officially discontinuing his contact with SUBJECT, he still corresponded with him because he was interested in finding out more about SUBJECT's activities. By doing so he also fulfilled a request of the "Amt Blank", which was desirous of obtaining information about SUBJECT's activities.

g. Concerning SUBJECT's activities, Albert stated that, according to his information, SUBJECT had been in contact with the "Amt Blank" since the end of 1951. He was removed from that organization in October 1952, allegedly at the request of the Americans. Upon dismissal, SUBJECT received an unknown sum of money as final payment. SUBJECT and his friend, Mast, who also was eliminated from the above-mentioned intelligence organization, then started a "revange campaign" against the "Amt Blank" and its individual members and denounced them to various other intelligence agencies, to Austrian Police agencies, and to the so called "Amt Gehlen" (Office Gehlen), a West German intelligence organization, which was allegedly sponsored by the Americans. During that period, SUBJECT wrote letters to Albert telling him that pretty soon he would be in the "driver's seat" again because of his connections to the previously mentioned American intelligence personalities. According to rumors, SUBJECT allegedly has contact with a Swiss intelligence agency and also with the French intelligence. SUBJECT has also attempted to gain employment in the Gehlen intelligence service and allegedly SUBJECT has established contact with the Gehlen intelligence service. It is rumored, however, that the Gehlen Service has maintained contact with SUBJECT only in order to obtain information concerning the latter's activities.

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THE PROVISIONS OF PAR 6 & 7, AR 15-1

ROLF E. RINGER, S/A CIC  
430th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

*Rolf E. Ringer*

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HOETTL, Wilhelm  
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h. When asked about his knowledge concerning the relations between Kurt Ponger and SUBJECT, Albert stated that at the end of August 1952 Angerer showed Albert a report from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior in which the name of Kurt Ponger was mentioned in connection with an alleged Communist newspaper group, and asked Albert if he could furnish any information concerning the matter. Albert then, as a matter of routine, asked SUBJECT if he knew anything about the persons mentioned in the above cited report, among them Kurt Ponger. SUBJECT answered that he knew about Ponger; that he was very much interested in knowing about any other information the Austrian State Police might have about that person; and that upon receipt of that information, he (SUBJECT) would be in a position to provide additional information. Albert then again contacted Angerer and told him that if he (Albert) could obtain more information concerning Ponger from the State Police, SUBJECT could possibly obtain additional information concerning the matter. During the following weeks SUBJECT, on several occasions, asked Albert if he had obtained the desired information from the State Police. After several weeks Albert received the requested information concerning Ponger from the State Police. When Albert gave SUBJECT the information, the latter mentioned that he had known Ponger from the time that he (SUBJECT) was imprisoned in the War Crimes Prison in Nuremberg, Germany, where Ponger functioned as an interrogator. SUBJECT then gave Albert verbal information concerning Ponger, which included a statement that in his (SUBJECT's) opinion, Ponger did not have any contacts with the Soviets. Some time later SUBJECT disclosed to Albert that he was in business contact with Ponger and his partners, Otto Verber and Walter Lauber, and that the Central European Press and Literary Agency in Vienna, which was managed by Ponger, provided picture material for SUBJECT's book and his numerous newspaper articles. Aside from the above cited occasions, SUBJECT never mentioned Ponger, Verber or Lauber again to Albert, with the exception of a letter from HOETTL sent to Albert, dated 16 January 1953, in which SUBJECT stated that in regard to the Ponger-Verber espionage case, he knew the people and that it seemed impossible to him that they were suspected of being Soviet agents. He further mentioned that if Angerer had any specific questions to ask him about Ponger or Verber, SUBJECT would gladly be at his disposal, but that he would prefer that his name not be mentioned, since he did not want to be known as an acquaintance of these people. SUBJECT finally mentioned that he trusted Ponger and Verber and that he could not believe former OSS officers were Soviet spies.

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Agent's Notes: On 3 April 1953, the files of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A

ROLF E. RINGER, S/A CIC  
430th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

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and Rudiger Lippman  
Land Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

7 April 1953

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were examined by this Agent concerning the personalities and organizations mentioned in this report, and were found to contain the following information:

The Interreport Ost is mentioned in numerous reports as a publication printed in Vienna, which serves as a cover for the collection of intelligence information destined for the French and Austrian Intelligence Service.

The Central European Press and Literary Agency, Vienna, is listed as an enterprise managed by Kurt Ponger.

Kurt Ponger, Walter Lauber, and Otto Verber are mentioned as US citizens who were arrested by US authorities in Vienna in January 1953. Ponger and Verber were charged with espionage on behalf of the Soviets.

Heinrich von Mast, born 26 August 1897, is listed as a TIB employee as of 30 August 1949.

Theodor von Albert, born 9 October 1922, residing on Weifanggasse, Salzburg, is mentioned in numerous reports as a former collaborator of Armand Fellner in the publication, Interreport Ost.

Attention is invited to the fact that during a previous interrogation by this Agent, HOETTL had stated that he had been questioned concerning Ponger by Mast on behalf of the Austrian State Police, and not by Albert, as mentioned in this report.

When this Agent first contacted Albert, he immediately stated that he knew that this Agent would question him concerning HOETTL. When asked to state the reasons for his assumption, Albert stated that on 26 March 1953, he had been informed by his "superiors" in the Amt Blank Intelligence organization that HOETTL had been apprehended by CIC.

On 1 April 1953, this Agent interviewed Rudiger Lippman in the German language in the CIC offices at 5 Hellbrunnerstrasse, Salzburg, Land Salzburg, Austria, concerning his contact with Willi HOETTL, well-known

ROLF E. RINGER, S/A CIC  
130th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

*Rolf E. Ringer*

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THE PROVISIONS of Para 6 & 7, AR 380-5 (130 APR 53)

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HOETTL, Wilhelm  
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intelligence operative, and received the following information:

a. Lippman, born 9 January 1929 in Buenauburg, near Tetschen-Bodenbach, Bohemia, CSR, attended elementary school and high school from 1935 to 1944 in Tetschen-Bodenbach, CSR. In January 1945, the school was closed and Lippman was forced to discontinue his studies. In 1946, Lippman took his final high school examination in Bad Reichenhall, Germany, which enabled him to attend the Commercial Academy in Salzburg from 1947 to 1951. Lippman stated that he had been employed as follows:

Sep 1946-Oct 1946: Firm Fritzer, Bad Reichenhall, Germany  
Jan 1947-Aug 1947: Firm Josef Schwarz' Sohn, Freilassing, Germany  
Sep 1951 to present date: USFA Quartermaster, Camp Truscott

b. In 1948, one Drasko Vidic, a Yugoslav currently residing in the United States, gave Lippman a letter to mail to one Elisabeth Franke, Runfortstrasse 49, Munich, Germany. Subsequently, Lippman became acquainted with Franke, who told him that during World War II she had been employed as a secretary by SUBJECT. She told Lippman that SUBJECT was engaged in writing books, including Die Geheime Front (The Secret Front), and that she was sending SUBJECT articles and material for these books.

c. SUBJECT or the Nibelungen Verlag, a publishing company in Linz, Land Upper Austria, sent approximately two letters every month to Lippman's address in Salzburg, c/o Martin Lang (Lippman's uncle), Franz Josefstrasse 35, Salzburg. The envelopes contained letters, which Lippman carried across the Austro-German border and mailed in Germany. Lippman remembered mailing letters to the following persons and companies:

Dr. Rolf, first name unknown, or Dr. Roeder, first name unknown,  
Ruedigerstrasse, Munich, Germany  
Hjalmar Schacht, Jr, Munich, Germany  
Minister Lukaschek, first name unknown, Bundeshaus, Bonn, Germany  
General Westphal, first name unknown, Ruhr district, Germany  
Charlottsche Buchhandlung, address unknown  
Various bookstores throughout Germany, addresses unknown

d. Lippman stated that he met SUBJECT three or four times at the Hotel zum Hirschen, Salzburg, but could not remember the dates, and that he visited SUBJECT in August 1951 and June 1952 at latter's home in Alt

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430th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

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THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPHS 6 & 7, AR 600-5 - 130, APPLY

*Secret - Security Information*

HOETTL, Wilhelm  
Contact with Theodor von Albert  
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Land Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

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Aussee, Land Styria, Austria. SUBJECT made arrangements for the Nibelungen Verlag to pay Lippman fifty schillings per month and postal expenses for mailing the above-mentioned letters from Germany, while Lippman was attending school in Salzburg. SUBJECT also promised Lippman help in obtaining employment upon his graduation from the Commercial Academy. On 24 March 1953, Lippman received the last letter from SUBJECT, which he mailed in Germany.

e. When asked about SUBJECT's acquaintances, Lippman stated that when he was attending school in Salzburg, he told SUBJECT that he needed a certain book of philosophy for his studies, and SUBJECT recommended that Lippman should contact Dr. Anton Boehm, a lawyer in Salzburg, one of SUBJECT's friends. Sometime in 1952, Lippman was notified by SUBJECT that a man would meet Lippman in Manusplatz, Salzburg, and give him something to mail. Lippman met this person, who introduced himself as Baron Harry Mast, and introduced his companion as Albert, first name unknown to Lippman. Albert asked Lippman to mail letters for him to his sister in Germany, to which Lippman consented. Since that time, Lippman has frequently taken letters over the border for Albert and mailed the letters in Germany. Lippman stated that most of the letters were addressed to Dusa Kazimir, address unknown, Karlsruhe, Germany.

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Agent's Notes: On 3 April 1953, the files of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A were examined by this Agent concerning the personalities and firms mentioned in this report, and were found to contain the following information:

Drasco Vidic, born 12 May 1921, is listed as a former Informant of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A, who was dropped without prejudice on 20 February 1950.

Anton Boehm, residing at Neutorstrasse 192, Salzburg, is listed as a TIB employee as of 7 September 1949.

On 3 April 1953, the files of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A were examined by this Agent concerning SUBJECT and were found to contain the following information:

Wilhelm HOETTL, born 19 March 1915 in Vienna, residing at Alt Aussee 70, Land Styria, Austria, is mentioned in numerous reports.

ROLF E. RINGER, S/A CIC  
430th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

*Rolf E. Ringer*  
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as a former CIC Informant, who was dropped on 1 December 1949. HOETTL is also mentioned in numerous reports as an intelligence operative employed by various intelligence agencies.

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THE PROVISIONS of Para 6 & 7, AR 381 - 130, apply

ROLF E. RINGER, S/A CIC  
430th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

*Rolf E. Ringer*

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