

Former Nazi Held by U. S. In Spy Case

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SALZBURG, Austria, April 6 (AP)—U. S. intelligence agents have "detained" a former Nazi spy who had connections with two Americans charged with spying for the Soviet Union, it was announced today.

U. S. Army authorities said they had picked up Wilhelm Hoettl, a former Nazi SS (Elite Guard) officer who engaged in espionage in the Balkans for the Germans during World War II.

The army said he had connections with Kurt L. Ponger and Otto Verber, naturalized Americans arrested in Vienna and charged with giving U. S. military secrets to Yuri W. V. Novikov, second secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Ponger and Verber go on trial in Washington on April 30. Novikov has returned to Russia.

Hoettl, 38, was the author of a postwar book on espionage called "Secret Front." The army said he came in contact with Ponger during the Nuernberg war crimes trial where Hoettl appeared as a witness and Ponger was employed as an interpreter.

When Ponger moved to Vienna in 1948, the Army said, he frequently visited Hoettl at Alt Aussee near Bad Ischl, Austria, where Hoettl has lived since the war.

Ponger and Verber, his brother-in-law, operated a "photographic news agency" in Vienna.

American authorities said Hoettl traveled through western Germany with Ponger and Walter Lauber, "attempting to arrange contact with prominent West German figures."

Lauber, also a naturalized American citizen, was questioned by U. S. counter-intelligence agents in Vienna in connection with the Ponger and Verber arrests. He was released and fled to the Soviet sector of Vienna.

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