

SECURITY INFORMATION

IA: AIR (SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

FILE NO. EGL-A-3281

SECRET CLASSIFICATION

23 April 1953

TO : Chief, EE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : Chief of Base, Pullach

Info: COM

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/ZIPPER

SPECIFIC— TOPHOLE/Connection (Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL - Curt L. PONGER

1. Herewith primarily for the record a photocopy of the report (and rough translation thereof) prepared for ZIPPER by Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL, entitled "My Acquaintance with Curt PONGER". HOETTL wrote this shortly after he heard of the arrest of PONGER and VERBER, and after he briefly discussed the case with V-11400 (U/S), his contact to ZIPPER. The report was actually written on the advice of U/S. From HOETTL's correspondence, we know that he regarded this method of putting himself on record to be very clever, as he stipulated that the report was ~~not~~ to be used internally only (meaning German staff), but he could (and did, during interrogation) claim he had reported to the U.S. organization with which he was in contact. HOETTL thereby established his "Rueckendeckung", but had no intention of volunteering his knowledge of the case, which certainly could have been helpful; rather, as he stated in letters to his closest associate, Baron Harry EAST, he fully intended to say nothing unless the Americans knew he was involved in the case, and then only when they approached him.

2. It will be noted, as pointed out in other reports, that this report is very similar to the one prepared by HOETTL for CIC Agent Rolf RINGER, with the exception that HOETTL indulges rather freely in oblique attacks on other ZIPPERites in his report to ZIPPER, to deflect attention from himself.

3. A carbon copy of this report was found among the papers confiscated on HOETTL's arrest, so SALZBURG/VIENNA are already provided with copies of this document; this base also made the information in the report available to [ ] for interrogation of HOETTL.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2008

Approved by:

*for* WSS  
[ ]

Date Originated: 15 April 53

DIST:  
3-EE (w/1 copy of encl)  
3-COM " " " "

SECRET CLASSIFICATION

RI COPY