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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACU S T R I A  
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MIDDLE EAST

15 May 1961

AFRICA

WEST EUROPE

15 MAY 1961

AUSTRIAN NAZI LINKED TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE

Review of Austrian Press and Radio for 13-15 May--A

(Editorial Report) The Vienna press gives prominent coverage to the arrest of an Austrian whose name was mentioned at the Eichmann trial in connection with the assassination of Jews in Vilna. The man, Franz Murer, from Gaishorn in Upper Styria, was reportedly arrested 12 May and imprisoned in Graz.

The press reports that the news of Murer's arrest caused several hundred inhabitants of Gaishorn to stage a demonstration. This action is condemned by the Socialist ARBEITER-ZEITUNG, which contrasts the sympathy shown for a man who is suspected of the murder of some 80,000 Jews with the wartime efforts of the populations of Holland, Denmark, and Norway to save Jews from deportation. According to the press, the Gaishorn demonstrators acted under the erroneous assumption that Murer had been abducted by Israeli intelligence agents.

ARBEITER-ZEITUNG runs the first installment of a special report on the case of Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, a former high-ranking official in the "SS-Reichssicherheitshauptamt" who testified about Eichmann at the Nuremberg trial and now lives in Altaussee, Styria, as the principal of a private high school. Describing Hoettl as "a world champion in surviving" the collapse of the Nazi regime which he had supported, the socialist paper says it helped a lot that he established contact with an Austrian resistance group and the Central Intelligence Agency shortly before the end of the war. The paper claims that Hoettl later worked for the Americans as an informer and "had considerable dollar earnings." The paper finds it indicative that one of Eichmann's two sons, Horst Eichmann, is said to have called on Hoettl a few months ago to raise funds for his father's defense.

The people's party NEUE TAGESZEITUNG UND DAS KLEINE VOLKSBLATT report a planned amendment of the Italian citizenship law that would enable the Italian authorities to deport undesirable members of the South Tyrolean minority "under threadbare pretexts." TAGESZEITUNG reports that the amendment provides for a repeal of the renaturalization of those South Tyroleans who opted for Germany in 1939 but returned to South Tyrol after the war. If such a person commits "actions incompatible with the duties of loyalty to the Italian republic and its institutions, his Italian citizenship can be annulled by a decree of the Italian president upon suggestion of the minister of the interior, the planned amendment reportedly states.

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