

VIA: AIR
(Specify Air or Sea Route)

WATCH NO. UL-A-6717

CLASSIFICATION

EF

TO : Chief, Foreign Division

DATE: 1 June 1951

FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational

SPECIFIC - Hannes BAUER and the KLATT Case

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1. Toward the end of a recent SATRE meeting when business had been finished and small talk was being exchanged, Anton HALTER began to describe intelligence personalities known to him during the war. He gave honorable mention to General ERB and THAIS, discussed EMBERTON in passing, disclaimed detailed information on KREMER or any Georgians except ALSCHUTZKY, and finally asked whether [redacted] had heard of Richard BAUER, alias FLATT.

2. HALTER indicated a general knowledge of the KLATT case, and described the visit about four years ago of an American representative from Washington who requested a two hour interview with HALTER about FLATT, and was so interested he ended up staying two days in HALTER's Sternberg residence. The representative was obviously (from the physical description) [redacted]. At any rate, HALTER then pointed out that the real expert on FLATT was Hannes BAUER, also present in the room as a TINNER SATRE representative.

3. BAUER was pleased to talk about the FLATT affair as he had obviously been disgruntled at the German handling of the case. BAUER, who was C. of an Abwehr radio battalion, claimed to have located a radio transmitter in Sofia and to have closed in on it to find that it was being operated by FLATT. According to BAUER, FLATT was in contact with a Soviet station transmitting from Moscow on Soviet agent training frequencies, and received his information via this channel from an unidentified Soviet "Major". When he reported these transmissions and FLATT's activities through channels, BAUER claims that he received rigid instructions to leave FLATT alone. BAUER says it was explained to him that Berlin knew FLATT was forwarding Soviet controlled material, but continued the case because so much excellent information was being passed as military material the Germans were willing to take the chance of recognizing any deception. BAUER was unsatisfied with his superiors explanation that it was quite satisfactory and even necessary to have agents who wore their allegiances "on both shoulders", so long as proper control could be exercised. He commented that apparently the Georgians were also convinced of this, since so far as he knew, FLATT was now American employed.

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