

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
 DATE 2006

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2006 9209

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*Sup*

AM	Chief of Station, London
AM	Chief of Base, Salzburg
AM	Operational/GRU VI
AM	Polytechnic Touring Association
AM	SALE 4066, 4504; WD 4629; IR 1949

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 Chief of Base, Salzburg  
 Operational/GRU VI  
 Polytechnic Touring Association

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1. On 17 June 1955 an SOB source reported that one of his contacts had been approached by Josef WITTE, local representative of the English firm, Polytechnic Travel Association. WITTE claimed that this organization was establishing offices throughout Austria, the real purpose of which was not to accommodate tourists, but to collect intelligence. WITTE asked whether this man, Richard HAUSER aka [redacted], would be interested in handling the intelligence phase of Polytechnic's Salzburg operation.

2. SOB files reveal that both WITTE and HAUSER have been associated with or of interest to the SIS in the past. In addition to the WITTE mentioned in IR 1949, who has a long record as suspected SIS operative, both WITTE and HAUSER are friends of Viktor K. [redacted], former Viennese police officer and wartime British agent. HAUSER has, however, a quite shady reputation as, at worst, a possible IV II Russian spy, and at best a known fabricator. It is certain that SIS would not willingly include him in any of their operations. WITTE is a different matter, though, and for what we know of him, he could at present be working as a spy/developer for the British, and have hit on HAUSER as a good lead. However the sponsor of this purported intelligence system may be, they are in for a shock, since the story outlined in paragraph 1 above has been told to the Austrian State Police. If the British are interested in Polytechnic we should like to warn them that so far, at least as Austria is concerned, the jig is about up. We should also like to know however, whether someone else is sponsoring the group or if the whole affair is national.

3. We don't know what facilities you have for carrying out investigations on our own or how you play the game with the British (whom we would like to bring in only if we are unable to identify the sponsor on our own) but we would appreciate greatly any information you could give us about Polytechnic. We hear, for example, that the London Bureau of the Association has about 200 employees which implies that Austria is by a long shot not the only country covered. Just how widespread is this service? Can you find anything about WITTE, WITTE, or WITTE (see

JGB

~~FOLDER 2~~

~~BOX 1~~

EFIA

*[Handwritten signature]*

6-6-11-17

attached clipping) or KINDEN? If you are in no position to assist us in this effort without ringing the British, please let us know so that we may have our future action accordingly.

4 August 1955

attachment: newspaper clipping

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