

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. DEFA-4077

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE

DATE: _____

FROM : Chief, FOB

INFO: COM

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/CART

SPECIFIC— Henri BLANCHE

The following information was submitted by [redacted] of [redacted] on 14 November 1954. Headquarters traces on Blanche are requested.

1. Henri BLANCHE, French national, is now living in Frankfurt am Main - Ober-rad; and he acts as a sales representative for a French wine producer, one Comte de la Drouse (phonetic). BLANCHE's father was at one time French Ambassador in Turkey and South America. As a result of his background, BLANCHE has had a cosmopolitan education, and he speaks English and German fluently.

2. In 1939-40, BLANCHE was living in Paris. His overt employment and profession at that time are unknown. However, he was frequently seen in the company of American press representatives, and since he has a pleasing personality, he was quite popular with the Americans with whom he associated. BLANCHE recently admitted to source that he had been working for the French Intelligence in 1939-40, and that his main assignment was that of reporting on the activities of U.S. correspondents in Paris.

3. BLANCHE recently stated that he had done further intelligence work for the French in Belgium and Holland before these two countries were occupied by the Germans. He also revealed that he had worked for Leon MANDEL, pre-war French Minister of the Interior who was killed by the Nazis. BLANCHE claims to have been imprisoned for a while by the Vichy government during the German occupation of France, probably because of his connections with MANDEL. For a period of about six months, he states that he shared a cell at Idiom with Pierre MENDES-FRANCE.

4. Later, BLANCHE worked for the Vichy government. As a result of this collaboration, he spent two years in the Fresnes prison after the liberation of France.

5. BLANCHE admits that he maintained friendly relations with Otto ABETZ, Karl OBERG, Dr. Helmut KNOCHEN, and Dr. Ernst ACHENBACH and other German intelligence figures in Paris during the war. He also has a number of old acquaintances in Germany, chiefly in FDP and ex-Nazi circles, and he claims that these persons are now assisting him in establishing himself as a wine salesman.

6. BLANCHE includes among his close associates former Ambassador Dr. Rudolf RAHN, who is now an executive with the Coca-Cola Company in Duesseldorf, and RAHN's assistant, one FURSTENEICHER (phonetic), a former SS officer. BLANCHE claims that

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RAHN is private diplomatic advisor to Thomas DEHLER of the FDP, and that both RAHN and FURSTENEICHER are rising within the ranks of the FDP. BLANCHE also reported that RAHN and FURSTENEICHER are interested in negotiating with the Russians (type of negotiation not specified), and that they will be overtly active for the FDP after West Germany becomes a sovereign state.

7. BLANCHE states that although he has a number of good social connections in Paris, he is regarded as something of a social or political outcast, and therefore had to come to Germany to work. He admits that he would like to leave the wine business and return to politics. He has not tried to take advantage of his prison connection with MENDES-FRANCE, probably because of his later interment as a German collaborator.

8. BLANCHE states that he is acquainted with several persons in MENDES-FRANCE's entourage, including Georges BORRES, who, according to BLANCHE, is one of the French Premier's principal unofficial advisors. BLANCHE claims that BORRES has been pro-Communist for many years. Before the war, BORRES published a paper called La Lumiere, and was reportedly subsidized by the Soviet Embassy in Paris (not the French Communist Party.) Source states that BLANCHE may have acquired this last bit of information as a result of his pre-war work with the French IS.

9. In view of BLANCHE's past intelligence connections, it is entirely possible that he is still active in this field. We will continue to report any additional information on BLANCHE which becomes available to source.



10. The files of COM contain no traces on BLANCHE. It is requested that Henri BLANCHE be traced in Headquarters files, and that we be informed of the results.

APPROVED: 

19 November 1954

Distribution:

3 - EE (DIRECT)
3 - COM

Contacts of
Off ABETZ

EGPA-4077, 23 Nov 54.

Henri BLANCHE, French National, is now living in Frankfurt-am-Main- Oberrad. He acts as a sales representative for a French wine producer, one Comte de la Drouse. Blanche's father was at one time French Ambassador in Turkey and South America. Was frequently seen in company of American press representatives; worked for French intelligence in 1939-40.

Blanche admits that he maintained friendly relations with Otto ABETZ, Karl OBERG, Dr. Helmut KNOCHEN, and Dr. Ernst ACHENBACH and other German intelligence figures in Paris during the war.

Blanche includes among his close associates former Ambassador Dr. Rudolf RAHN, who is now an executive with the Coca-Cola Company in Duesseldorf, and Rahn's assistant, one FURSTENEICHER, a former SS officer. Blanche claims that Rahn is private diplomatic advisor to Thomas DEHLER of the FDP, and that both Rahn and Fursteneicher are rising within the ranks of the FDP. Blanche also reported that Rahn and Fursteneicher are interested in negotiating with the Russians, and that they will be overtly active for the FDP after West Germany becomes a sovereign state.

Blanche states also that he is acquainted with several persons in MENDES FRANCE's entourage, including Georges BORRES (BORIS ?), who, according to Blanche, is one of the French Premier's principal unofficial advisors. Blanche claims that Borres has been pro-Communist for many years. Before the war, BORRES published a paper called La Luniere, and was reportedly subsidized by the Soviet Embassy in Paris (not the French Communist Party).

(Blanche stated that for a period of about six months, he shared a cell at Rion with Pierre MENDES-FRANCE. He has not tried to take advantage of this prison connection, probably because of his later internment as a German collaborator.)

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SGWA-15623, 1 May 1953

Information

The following was given to CIA by Dr. Otto John of the BfV. Re: Naumann Affair

"The Federal prosecutor assured John that the Naumann Circle represented a potential but not an actual danger and that so far no concrete evidence had been uncovered that would show a violation of the Federal Constitution by Naumann et al. Among the Naumann notes the following might be of interest: "The Americans might be willing to let us work in Europe, even with the help of forces that were formerly active in the SS. However, the time for action has not yet arrived. Public opinion in the U.S.A. is extremely important for us. Thus the activity at home must go hand in hand with the work being done abroad. We have many and powerful friends in the U.S.A. We should not embarrass them by ill considered speeches and statements (speeches by Rahmke, etc.). Three-fourths of the anonymous power in the U.S.A. are in the hands of Jews, and Taft and McCarthy are giving them a real fight. Can Eisenhower rid himself of this anonymous power? If so, it can be done only with the help of American national forces."

The wife of Naumann's defense attorney, Dr. Ernst Achenbach, is a native born American and a violent Nazi sympathizer. The Achenbachs were close personal friends of Abetz, former German governor of Paris. Achenbach is said to pay for the support of Mrs. Abetz, a born French woman. Mrs. Achenbach claims to have established contact between Abetz and American Ambassador Murphy during the Vichy regime. She allegedly tried to get in touch with Senators Taft and McCarthy. Dr. Friedrica Middelhaue, Chairman of the North Rhine-Westphalian FDP and leader of the right wing of the national FDP, is said to have written to Senator McCarthy, requesting him to send an investigating committee to Duesseldorf in connection with the Naumann arrests.

EGFA-3845, 22 Oct 1954

Source: 1/1/54

Source's comments re ABETZ, ACHENBACH, FLICK, and STINNES

Otto ABETZ, 51, released from French custody in April and last German Ambassador in Paris, joins the editorship of the "Rheinisch-Westfaelische Zeitung", which will be published twice a week in Essen beginning the end of October and later daily. The policy of the planned paper is against Adenauer's foreign policy.

SOURCE states that, if this article is correct, Achenbach, who is a personal friend of Abetz and was his defense counsel during the French post-war trials, is behind the scenes in this activity. Regarding the financing of such a paper, source believes that Achenbach would have obtained the money from:

- a. FLICK concern (German heavy industry) to which Achenbach has contact through Director Kaletsch in Duesseldorf. (Both Kaletsch and Flick were sentenced at Nurnberg). Source related an occurrence which took place during a meeting of CAWELK party officials. CACHLORIDE was addressing the group when a message came that Kaletsch wanted to see him. Source stated that CACHLORIDE stopped in the middle of a sentence and left the room like "greased lightning", returning after only a few moments. Source believes that such a departure for so short a time meant that CACHLORIDE needed only enough time to receive some money and return.

- b. Hugo STINNES, who is also one of the rightists in German heavy industry.

- c. RAHN (Coca-Cola)

Archives Info, Re: Jacques FATH, (famous French designer, recently deceased)

Jacques Frederic FATH, born 6 Sept 1912, married 18 Feb 1939 to Genevieve BOUCHET, manager of "Societe Jacques FATH et Cie", founded 29 Dec 1936. FATH and wife frequently received German officers and members of the Gestapo in his home. Wife boasted of the fact that she was the mistress of Otto ABETL.

FATH was a self-inscribed member of the collaborationist "Cercle European", which fostered a united Europe with Nazi Germany with Nazi Germany at its head. FATH is known in his neighborhood as a man who sympathized with the Nazi cause, and also, is considered as an undesirable character by the French Police of Paris.