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FOIA-A-21761

Chief, Foreign Division H
Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

240.1
~~Handwritten signature~~

18 August 1950

~~Operational~~

KIBITZ - Walter KOPP

1. Introduction to Subject was through his letter 1 May 1950 to US High Commissioner ECCLOY, which was forwarded to [] by HICOG, Office of Intelligence. Summary translation of KOPP's letter is given below:

"Writer, representing the interests of a group of his friends, former Reichswehr-officers, among them experienced combat men, experts in technical, tactical and diplomatic fields as well as persons thoroughly familiar with areas in the Balkans, Russia, the Caucasian mountains etc., offers to put his and his friends' services at the disposal of the Americans.

"Writer continues saying that all of his friends have found new employments and manage to get along fine, that they, however, in due consideration of the traditional western occidental culture does it their duty - should their services be required at all - to offer their versatile experiences in the economical, propagandistic, political and military fields. Writer believes that it will be hard to understand for a citizen of the "New World" when he says that it is his and his friends' conception of honor that makes them take this quite unusual step, the result of the present entangled political situation.

"Writer does not expect a reply to his letter hopes, however, that his offer will be remembered in due time."

2. This proposal gave grounds for consideration of Subject, or some of his friends, for some form of stay-behind activity. Due to Subject's given address in the French Zone, we had particularly counted on making the development among his friends as soon as they became known. However, as it later develops we find Subject has a family residence near Augsburg in the American Zone and that the address Alesans/Rheinfels is one of his business addresses. However, the first contact was made at the French Zone address where we located him after two previous misses due to his traveling between the two addresses. He was interviewed by [] on 15 August at the Alesans address. [] used the name of Kessler (as he had done on the previous visits when he spoke to Subject's sister and sister-in-law), and as introduction handed Subject a copy of his own letter to

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McCLOY. Subject immediately escorted [] to a small office in the upstairs of the family construction material place of business where he reiterated the thoughts expressed in the letter. In essence, Subject feels that the Western powers are now reaching the maturity of anti-Communism that Germany had felt early after World War I and through the present. And as America seems most ready to do something about it, he felt it time to present himself.

3. Subject, though presently self-employed as a tractor sales agency, remains the unreconstructed ram-rod type of professional soldier of the old officer corps, a choice he made as the second son not eligible to inherit the family business and so required to choose another career. He is quite proud in his choice in that candidacy was considered quite an accomplishment at the time when Germany's military program was restricted to 100,000 men and 2,500 (or 2,400) officers. As an example of his professional officer pride: when he was filling out the Personal Record Questionnaire (attached) he good-naturedly griped about the questions to be filled out until he came to item #25 (Military Service). Here he became a changed person and immediately declared the space to be filled in as inadequate, whipped the paper out of the typewriter, turned to the other side of the page and proceeded without hesitation to fill up the full page and three quarters of another, listing in all 38 separate phases of his military career, giving day-month-year accounting from April 1932 until his capture by the Americans (on the last of seven times he was wounded) and release on 29 June 1945 after one month's incarceration. From the PRQ it will be seen that KOPP is perhaps identical with the second person mentioned in paragraph 2 of WASHF-8890.

4. As a basis for discussion [] asked him whether he and his friends had any definite plans with which to follow up his letter to McCLOY. He replied that they, as others, had no knowledge of what they should do or could be allowed to even think of doing. It was explained to him that the courses open to them were hard to define, and in fact, despite the present conversations of re-arming Germany, there is really nothing to be made of it. However, it would not be ill advised for them to assess their potential and prepare it in a form which [] could present for possible interest by one of the planning agencies. This he agreed to as practical and intimated it would be in the form of a staff report and named the following as his comrades in the project:

Will SCHLEIF, Oberammargau, (opposite Electric works).
Willi GEISSERT, Durlach, Bergbahnstr. 1
Werner REICH, Neuwied-Niederbieber, Schulstr. 7
Otto BUCHHORN, Backnang (Forsthaus)
Helmut STIERLE, Stuttgart, Dresdner Bank
fm RACKL, Ulm, Bahnhofstr., Neu Ulm
Max KEMERICH, Munich (exact address not known)

Name traces on these persons are being requested by separate memo to CLS, ELS, BOB and FDM.

5. From his conversation it would appear his thinking is in the line of building a military nucleus around an elite police corps except that it might no

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longer be practical in that it might precipitate an international incident. As an alternative, he is thinking of a program for recruiting among former staff members to be secretly organized in some neutral country and continue to develop an army with further recruitment from men drawn out of Germany as a labor force, or send the officers as trained back to Germany to secretly recruit and organize units here. He was asked if this meant he was considering organizing to form an underground army, to which he replied definitely not! The Germans will never respond to such a venture - there will never be an organized (or effective) resistance movement in Germany. In substantiation he cited the Werewolves whose only act was the murder of the Mayor of Aalen (or Aachen).

6. All of his thinking seems to be to an excess of our modest KIBITZ program. Nor do we envisage utilization of such a stern military tactician. However, we will go along with him in the hopes of bending one of his associates as we come to know them. In the meantime, any studies as they might present will be forwarded for others' interest. Our next meeting is tentatively set for 1 September.

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