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SECURITY INFORMATION

INTERROGATION OF WILHELM KRICHBAUM

1. Subject was interrogated by [] in the presence of Dr. KLAUSNER (cover name), Chief of CE Staff, ZIPPER Headquarters, in the German language on 9 March 1953.

2. Subject states that he was transferred to Nuernberg in March 1946 or thereabouts, initially to be charged with ~~complexity~~^{complicity} in war crimes. With the abandonment of efforts to charge the entire general staff, and specifically OKW, with being illegal and criminal organizations, Subject was transferred from prisoner status to the detention house for witnesses at Nuernberg. Between March 1946 and his release on 1 May 1948, Subject spent a total of 20 months at Nuernberg. In between appearances at trials or interrogations in connection with impending trials of major war criminals and the Wilhelmstrasse trial, Subject claims to have been moved about in various civilian internment enclosures, so that in the course of his entire captivity (3 May 1945 to 1 May 1948), Subject claims to have passed through 25 separate camps. Through this, those few people in German intelligence organizations who were not known to him during the war, he managed to meet following the war.

3. Subject was requested to serve as a witness in the Nuernberg trials by Mr. KEMPNER. As one of his first services, Subject wrote a history of the German Secret Police (GFP) for Mr. RAPP of the Special Investigation Branch. Subject states he also dealt with Mr. KAUFMANN in the preparation of this report. Subject also stated to this interrogator that certain aspects of this report were not true, that he had deliberately falsified or suppressed infor-

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mation regarding GFP and wished to warn the interrogator lest unwarranted conclusions of his general reliability be drawn therefrom. During his stay in Nuernberg Subject lived with Hans FRITSCH.

4. Subject returned to Bad Reichenhall to his family upon release on 1 May 1948 and went to work as a construction helper. All the money he was paid for the period of his detention Subject claims was nearly \$2,000. He alleges it was lost to him by the currency reform of 8 June 1948. He therefore welcomed the opportunity to return to Nuernberg the end of June 1948 to appear in the Wilhelmstrasse trial. Because of difficulties concerning payment of Subject and his lack of money, Subject claims that he could not take a train which would bring him to Nuernberg at the proper time, but instead, was brought to Munich by CJC Bad Reichenhall by car and sent on from there so that he appeared in the SCHELLENBERG trial at the very end and simply confirmed statements made by SCHELLENBERG. The day he arrived in Nuernberg he met PONGER and VERBER who shared an office. He had, of course, known PONGER earlier, but in this second trip to Nuernberg as a voluntary witness, PONGER commenced what might be considered cultivation of Subject.

5. Subject states that he first became acquainted with PONGER probably in 1947, specific date no longer remembered, on the occasion of a trial concerning the liquidation of Jews in Southern Russia in which he appeared as a witness. Subject had intended to testify that no order existed within the Secret Field Police to participate in liquidation of Jews. PONGER interrupted the trial, which he could do in his capacity as an official, and demanded that Subject's statements to this effect not be made under oath. He then conducted Subject to his office and gave him the files of the I-C of the 13th German Army

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commenting to Subject that the file had been photographed, and it was, therefore, superfluous for Subject to extract any incriminating documents. In this file Subject discovered that the GFP had indeed issued such orders within the 13th Army, but he, as commander of the entire GFP, had not been aware of these local orders. He thenceforth, naturally, felt somewhat beholden to PONGER.

6. In June or early July in 1948, while in Nuernberg, Subject had several discussions with PONGER, largely concerning the fate of various people Subject had known. Subject met Max NOETH in PONGER's office during this time. This was the first time he had seen NOETH since the end of the war. Subject also met GROSSCHEK while in Nuernberg at this time but in the presence of PONGER, however. PONGER informed him at this time that NOETH and GROSSCHEK were members of TIB and suggested that Subject should join that organization. Subject recalls discussing with PONGER at this time only a certain Dr. FINTER of III-H who Subject believes was arrested by the Americans and turned over to the Russians.

7. Subject states without elaborating that he was in touch with ZIPPER while he was still being held in the PW camp in Regensburg but did not actually join the Organization until the end of 1948. When next he saw PONGER, however, in 1950, PONGER was aware that Subject was a member of ZIPPER. Subject claims to be unable to recall the dates of meetings with PONGER but does remember that PONGER first stopped to see him in Reichenhall at about 9 p.m. in 1950. At that time PONGER was driving an Audi which Subject maintains had US plates and had his wife with him. Subject took them out to dinner in Reichenhall. The discussion was allegedly primarily social. Following this re-establishment of contact, PONGER wrote Subject letters and visited him on a most

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irregular basis. Subject will attempt to reconstruct the exact times when he met PONGER. Their conversation was invariably concerned with mutual acquaintances or concerned people known to Subject about whom PONGER would ask. Subject recalls the following significant points:

a. PONGER asked about a Dr. Adalbert HERMANN. Subject had known him as a member of the GFP, knew that he had been GFP advisor with Gen. MANNSTEIN. HERMANN had also earlier been a Regierungsrat in a Ministry of the Interior prior to the war. PONGER claimed to be greatly interested in HERMANN, stating that several questions were still open despite Nuernberg investigations. Subject states that HERMANN was in charge of all groups in MANNSTEIN's command area concerned with the suppression of partisans in the Crimea. HERMANN is currently employed as a legal advisor in a cement factory in Corinthia near St. Veit Ander Glan, exact location Subject does not recall. Although Subject did not specifically admit it, he undoubtedly provided PONGER with all this information.

b. Dr. Roman LOOS. LOOS is a former subordinate of Subject, having been in charge of GFP Southeast. LOOS was also in Nuernberg as a witness and PONGER knew him. PONGER invariably questioned Subject about LOOS, however. Subject first re-established contact with LOOS in 1948, traveling to Salzburg for that purpose. At that time Subject believes LOOS was working for CIC and for the French. He now believes LOOS to be working for the Austrian Ministry of Interior, probably directly for Ferdinand GRAF. He states that LOOS has become a devout Catholic and according to Subject's wife, has even appeared on the radio on some sort of Catholic program. Subject presents LOOS' adherence to Catholicism as a very remark-

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able item. During Subject's visit to LOOS in 1948 he was taken by LOOS to meet Dr. Karl von WINKLER who shared an office with LOOS in Marcus Sitticus Strasse in Salzburg. On this occasion Subject states that WINKLER told him he (WINKLER) would be the Chief of the Austrian Intelligence Service and that LOOS would be in charge of liaison with the Germans. At Subject's next meeting with LOOS in 1950 LOOS admitted that he had close relations with the People's Party and the ~~BBU~~, but that his closest connections was with the Security Directorate in Salzburg as his field of work being concerned entirely with the Austrian internal political situation. LOOS admitted that the prospects of an Austrian intelligence service and his role therein had changed considerably. Subject first met LOOS prior to the war when Subject became border inspector Southeast. LOOS had been a Captain in the old Austrian Army in the First World War and Subject took him into his service as Balkans specialist.

c. BEHAN, fnu. PONCER told Subject that BEHAN had regained his position with the Vienna police. BEHAN had been a criminal police official and was leader of the so-called Kanal Brigade in Vienna. Subject claims to have had no information on this subject to tell PONCER but indeed, that PONCER's statement to him ^{was} the first he had heard of BEHAN since the war. PONCER suggested Subject make a trip to Vienna to re-establish contact with BEHAN and others. Subject claims to have made some vague comments in this respect, but that he never really entertained the idea of travelling to Vienna, pointing out to the interrogator that he would hardly risk such a trip since the Russians would hardly fail to be interested in him.

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d. UCH, fnu. PONGER also mentioned that UCH was in Vienna. Subject knew UCH as UCH was GFP with Field Marshall LIST in the Balkans.

e. HOESSELBERT. Subject, on one occasion, recommended to HOETTL that he contact HOESSELBERT to answer some questions HOETTL had put to Subject. Subject claims to know only that HOESSELBERT was SD Chief in Athens and former colleague of HOETTL.

7. Subject states that PONGER, on one occasion, did ask him to assist HOETTL in getting a job with ZIPPER. Subject claims that he professed to have insufficient influence to achieve this. In 1951 PONGER arranged a meeting between HOETTL and Subject and drove Subject to Salzburg in his car where they met HOETTL. They then drove about Salzburg looking for a suitable meeting spot and finally drove on the way to Fuschl where they talked in a lake-side cafe. HOETTL asked him for assistance in getting a job with ZIPPER. Subject states that he told HOETTL in the presence of PONGER that certain unpleasant rumors circulating in SS circles regarding HOETTL would have to be explained before any consideration could be given to HOETTL's aspirations to enter ZIPPER. One of the specific points at issue was HOETTL's association with KERMMAYR, which HOETTL denied was any longer true. Subject further expressed the belief to this interrogator that HOETTL did, in fact, have some funds which he had acquired from the RSHA at the time of the collapse of the Third Reich. (In this connection, however, Subject states that he himself buried some funds he happened to have but had been unable to find the hiding place when he returned there three years later.) Subject regards PONGER's association with HOETTL to have been based on a publishing collaboration. He states that PONGER once confessed he had considered writing a book about the

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German intelligence service but had decided to leave it to "those better qualified". He believes then that PONGER assisted HOETTL in gathering material for HOETTL's books. Subject first met HOETTL, incidentally, in Berlin when Subject was charged with the security of the Southeastern border of the Greater German Reich. At that time HOETTL was SD specialist for ~~the Balkans.~~

8. Subject met HOETTL and PONGER again in Munich in October 1952. He insists that the conversation was very general, concerning common acquaintances, the exact gist of which he cannot recall. HOETTL again expressed interest in joining ZIPPER. Subject did not see HOETTL again, but a week later, about October 20, 1952 (a Monday, definitely), he again met PONGER in Munich. PONGER had called his wife in Reichenhall who, in turn, called Subject and told him to meet PONGER in the Hotel Schutz in Schutzenstrasse. PONGER claimed he was waiting in Munich for the arrival of a special delivery from the LITZ Firm in Wetzlar from who he had ordered a new camera lens. PONGER then told him some of the people HOETTL had met during his one week tour through Germany. Subject was particularly interested in HOETTL's meeting with NAUJOCKS because NAUJOCKS had been a member of the Reichs Polizei while Subject was associated therewith.

9. Subject states he met Mrs. PONGER only twice. Subject claims he never saw VERBER again after he left Muenberg in 1948. Subject claims PONGER never mentioned that he was attending the University of Vienna. Subject denies that he was aware that the Vienna Fourth District was Soviet occupied. Subject emphatically denies that any discussion of OFCZAREK occurred during his meeting with HOETTL and PONGER. Subject does recall that PONGER once asked him what he thought of the WALLNER affair, but Subject claims that he himself knew nothing

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of the affair and could give no answer except one of honest ignorance. Subject further claims he was asked questions about the MALLNER scandal by Karl Heinz KUEHN, CIC Salzburg informant with whom Subject has been in contact. On one occasion when Subject told PONGER he could not afford to visit the Salzburg Festivals, PONGER told him to simply visit Mr. SINGER or Mr. BROMBERG in Salzburg who would be able to give him funds. (This obviously referred to Mr. Victor SINGER who was employed by the USFA Air Force Section in the spring of 1949--hired by this interrogator--following the break-up of Nuernberg. Mr. BROMBERG is presumably christened BROMBERG, long time Public Safety Officer in Salzburg.) Subject claims that PONGER mentioned he was still "used" by American intelligence, although Subject admits that PONGER never directly stated that he was still in Government employment or was a U.S. Intelligence official. Subject, however, professes to have been convinced that this was the case and, as an intelligence man himself, refrained from questioning PONGER on his activities.

10. In explaining his broad acquaintance among former intelligence and police officials in Germany, Subject explains that he entered the German equivalent of the FBI in 1933 (ZSD) which had centers in Munich, Dresden and Berlin. In 1936 Subject was appointed Chief of Army Police and in this capacity claims to have had the almost impossible task of satisfying eight different bosses, all whom claimed some authority over him. These were KEITEL for the OKW, HIMMLER for the SS, CANARIS, HEYDRICH for the Gestapo, MUELLER of ALT IV RSHA, BENIVENTI (previously BAMNER), Air Force officials in his capacity as Chief of Air Force Police, and the Party. In addition, Subject was given responsibility for the Southeast border, compounding his difficulty. Subject lost practically all his personal possessions in the war, his home having been in

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Dresden, and he has never returned to East Germany since the war. Subject is covered as feed salesman in Bad Reichenhall. He claims that he told PONGER he was not directly associated with ZIPPER but that he answered questions when he was asked by representatives of that Organization, but he is certain PONGER did not believe this. Subject told an interesting story of having been approached by a Soviet agent in Regensburg, while Subject was still held in the civilian internment enclosure. This agent was a Dr. FOERSTER who had worked for Subject during the war, had been associated with the Auswanderangs Zentral in Lodz. This man approached Subject in Regensburg and told him that he was a Soviet agent sent from East Germany to contact Subject and another man. He and Subject concocted a letter stating that the other man FOERSTER was seeking was dead. FOERSTER told Subject the Russians wished Subject to return to Dresden and assured him that they had nothing against him. Subject claims that he prepared this letter to assist FOERSTER since he feared FOERSTER to have great difficulties returning empty-handed, and wished to help him as an old friend. Subject had an American official of the internment enclosure sign this letter or, at least, secured an official stamp of the enclosure to give the letter an authentic appearance. Subject claims to have heard from FOERSTER via a letter about a year ago, the letter being a "dove of peace" propaganda letter. From the return address Subject claims to know that FOERSTER is now imprisoned by the Soviets. The man whom Subject claimed to be dead for the benefit of the Russians is a certain HOMICE (phonetic) who was with RSMA in Czechoslovakia. This man is, in fact, to this day practicing medicine in Erlangen under a false name which Subject would not divulge.

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