

FORM NO. 35-85
NOV 1951

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

2 APR 53

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

IN 12108

ROUTING	
1	EE/A
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TO: DIRECTOR CMA
 FROM: SR REP PULLACH ROUTINE
 ACTION: EE 6. 0818Z 2 APR 53
 INFORMATION: DD/P, COP, FI, FI/OPS, FI/STC, FI/RI 2

PULL 5344

TO: DIR INFO: SF PAN SVIEN USAZ CITE: SPULL

TOPHOLE

REF: SPULL 5095 (IN 42645)

DEBRIEFING OF WILHELM KRICHBAUM BY [] REVEALS FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH PONGER:

1. LAST FALL 1950, PROBABLY SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, PONGER AND WIFE VISITED KRICHBAUM'S HOME IN BAD REICHENHALL ABOUT 2100 HOURS. EXPLAINED ENROUTE TO SALZBURG, PROCEEDING TO VIEN NEXT DAY. K AND WIFE DROVE AROUND REICHENHALL WITH THEM LOOKING FOR RESTAURANT AS PONGERS HAD NOT EATEN. DID NOT FIND ONE, SAT BRIEFLY IN A CAFE, TALKED ABOUT FAMILY MATTERS, PONGERS LEFT.

2. SHORTLY AFTER 5 MARCH 51 (ON A SATURDAY) PONGER AND WIFE VISITED KRICHBAUMS IN BAD REICHENHALL IN AFTERNOON, TALKED ABOUT FAMILY MATTERS, TOOK SOME PICTURES IN BACKYARD. PONGER MENTIONED HE OCCASIONALLY MET HOETTL, KRICHBAUM STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM BUT NO DATE WAS FIXED.

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY [] IT IS FORBIDDEN TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE
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3. MID-AUGUST 1951--PONGER ARRIVED KRICHBAUM'S HOME BAD REICHENHALL ON A SATURDAY BETWEEN 1400 AND 1500 HOURS, BEARING LETTER FROM HOETTL (WRITTEN AT PONGER'S INSTIGATION) REQUESTING MEETING, TOLD K THAT HOETTL WAITING IN SALZBURG. MEETING NOT PREARRANGED, ACCORDING K. K AND PONGER DROVE IN PONGER'S CAR TO SALZBURG, PICKED UP HOETTL FROM HIS HOTEL (PROBABLY ZUM HIRSCHEN), DROVE AROUND SALZBURG LOOKING FOR SUITABLE CAFE, FINALLY DROVE TO FUSCHLSEE, TALKED IN LAKESIDE CAFE FOR 1 OR 2 HOURS. TOOK HOETTL TO STATION TO CATCH LAST TRAIN TO ALT AUSSEE (FROM FUSCHL) K AND PONGER RETURNED TO SALZBURG WHERE K SAYS PONGER "MADE SOME PURCHASES" (COMMENT: IT MUST HAVE BEEN LATER THAN 1800 BY THEN), PROCEEDING TO BAYRISCH GMAIN (AUSTRIAN SIDE). MR. AND MRS. VERBER (EVA PONGER'S PARENTS) WERE STAYING THERE IN HOTEL NOETTL. K HAD DINNER WITH PONGER, TALKED WITH HIM (AND BRIEFLY WITH PARENTS) SO LATE HE MISSED LAST BUS TO REICHENHALL, HAD PONGER DRIVE HIM HOME. K'S WIFE BELIEVES HE ARRIVED HOME CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT, WHICH CORRESPONDS TO LETTER PONGER TO HOETTL DATED 26 AUGUST 51. K AND HOETTL DID DISCUSS LATTER'S CHANCES WITH GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, K CLAIMS HE TOLD HIM NO CHANCE UNTIL HOETTL CLEARED CHARGES HE ENRICHED SELF ON RSHA FUNDS AFTER WAR, AND BROKE WITH KERMMAYR. FIRST ITEM HOETTL DENIED, SECOND CLAIMED ALREADY DONE (HOETTL-KERMMAYR HAD TREMENDOUS SQUABBLE 1950). K DENIES ANY FURTHER TALK RE ZIPPER OR OTHER GIB ASPIRANTS. ADMITS PONGER ASKED HIM TO GIVE HOETTL JOB (PONGER KNEW K WITH ZIPPER, FROM

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WHAT SOURCE K CLAIMS UNKNOWN TO HIM.), BUT K STATED HE HADN'T ENOUGH INFLUENCE.

4. 11 OCTOBER 52--PONGER VISITED K IN BAD REICHENHALL, CLAIMED HE AND ASSISTANT (LAUBER) MAKING PHOTO COVERAGE OF PLANNED HELICOPTER LIFT SERVICE TO PREDIGTSTUHL. INFORMED K HOETTL UNABLE MEET HIM THAT DAY (MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY LETTERS, MAILED BY PONGER TO K FROM VIENNA, AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH WAS CENSORED. THEY AGREED TO MEET IN MUNICH FOLLOWING MONDAY.

5. 13 OCT 52--PONGER, HOETTL, K MET IN RESTAURANT IN AUTOBAHNHOF, MUNICH, FOR LUNCH. MEETING LASTED ABOUT 1 HOUR. HOETTL TOLD K HE ENROUTE TO BONN TO DISCUSS BUSINESS WITH AMT BLANK (NOTE: HOETTL HAD JUST BEEN FIRED BUT DID NOT MENTION THIS.) K DENIES DISCUSSING ZIPPER AT ALL DURING THIS MEETING.

6. 20 OCT 52--PONGER CALLED K'S WIFE IN REICHENHALL, SHE CALLED K IN MUNICH, TOLD HIM TO VISIT PONGER IN HOTEL SCHUETZEN IN SCHUEYZENSTRASSE, MUNICH. K WENT THERE, HAD COFFEE WITH PONGER, CLAIMS MEETING LASTED QUARTER OF HOUR. PONGER AWAITING DELIVERY OF LETTER FROM WETZLAR. K CLAIMS PONGER ASKED TO SEE HIM BECAUSE "BORED" WITH WAITING. TOLD K HE HAD VISITED NUERNBERG, WETZLAR, BONN AND STUTTGART. ALSO TOLD K NAMES PEOPLE HOETTL HAD SEEN REPORTED IN REFERENCE. K CLAIMS NO DISCUSSION INTELLIGENCE MATTERS. K ALSO KNOWS PONGER WAS IN KARLSRUHE 18 OCTOBER, WHERE HE VISITED FRANZ GROSCHKE, CHIEF KRIPD THERE, THEY TELEPHONED K IN REICHENHALL.

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SINCE THIS 6TH MEETING, NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH PONGER EXCEPT RECEIPT OF NEW YEAR'S CARD. K HAS NOT SEEN VERBER SINCE K LEFT NUERNBERG IN 1948, NEVER MET LAUBER. COMMENT: K IS AILING MAN (CIRCULATORY DISEASE) 57 YEARS OLD, FORMER COLONEL AND CHIEF GEHEIMFELDPOLIZEI, NOW HOLD HIGH CI/CE POSITION IN ZIPPER. BELIEVE HE DEFINITELY WITHHOLDING DETAILS OF EXTENT OF INDISCREET STATEMENTS HE HAD MADE TO PONGER (WHOM HE CLAIMS HE BELIEVED WAS MIS OFFICER IN VIENNA-- K WAS UNAWARE 4TH BEZIRK RUSSIAN), BUT DO NOT BELIEVE K WAS RECRUITED BY PONGER. PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT IS THAT PONGER DOUBTLESS ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES ANYWAY WITHOUT RISKING APPROACH AND POSSIBLE TURNDOWN. APPEARS K WAS TO ASSIST IN PLACING HOETTL IN ZIPPER, PERHAPS WAS TO HELP OTHERS, TOO. ZIPPER HQ ASSURES US K HAS NOT RECRUITED ANYBODY FOR ZIPPER. WE HAVE INFORMED ZIPPER WE BELIEVE K NOT TELLING ALL, HAVE ASKED THEM TO PRESS ISSUE, BUT WE EXPECT NOTHING MUCH.

? FOR SALZ: DETAILS OF MEETINGS MAY BE PASSED TO USF.

END OF MESSAGE.

*Heinrich
1952
Heinrich 57*

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